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Independent- Mar. 7, 2006

Patrick O'Brien

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NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
CHICAGO, IL

Tuesday, March 7, 2006
Volume 22 No. 17

INDEPENDENT

11-TIME 2005 ICPA AWARD WINNER

Serenity

North Campus-Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies-El Centro-Chicago Teachers' Center

Maa Kherew



Students, staff riding Brown Line may feel bulldozed

CTA rep comes to campus to unveil construction plan involving shuttle buses, long waits and uncertainty



by Mario Go
Senior Staff Writer
with George Pleleanu
Staff Writer

Mark Payne, a Chicago Transit Authority representative, visited NEIU to address students and neighborhood residents' concerns regarding the ongoing construction project that will close down some of the CTA's stations that service the school.

SEE BROWN LINE, PG. 7

President Steinberg begins "process" of resigning

by Amy Scoma
Staff Writer

President Salme Harju Steinberg has announced that she will begin "the process of saying farewell." She has not disclosed any specific future plans.

The fall semester of 2005 marked President Steinberg's sabbatical. This was not a traditional faculty sabbatical, as Steinberg stated, "There was no interim president named. I was in charge ... I was on call all the time."

During that semester, she focused her energies on exploring the influence of the corporate sector on the non-profit sector, higher education finance, and the role of global education for students.

Steinberg offered her insight at the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)-Kellogg Fellows Summer Institute in Washington, D.C. She also gave an address to the International Plenary of Annual Conference of the HACU, entitled "Preparing the

NEIU's chief executive remains vague on exact date of departure; describes her resignation as a "contract-driven decision."

Next Generation of Leaders: An International Perspective, the View from the USA."

Steinberg also took part in the International Commission Workshop at the Annual Conference by presenting "Best Practices in International Education: The Northeastern Illinois University Experience."

While performing her duties as president, Steinberg was also appointed to the position of Illinois Women's Forum Program

Chair for 2006.

Steinberg said of her sabbatical: "I really need[ed] to have this chance to think [things] through and to see what's next." She denies the rumors of a second sabbatical.

When asked of her motivations for resigning, Dr. Steinberg stated, "Well, I mean, it's not really, again, a resignation so much as a talking through with the board. Let's talk about transition." She did say, however, that it was a contract driven decision.

According to Board Chair Nancy Masterson's letter to the NEIU community, a Board committee composed of Carole Balzekas, Ed Dykla, and Jin

SEE STEINBERG, PG. 4

"Well, I mean, it's not really, again, a resignation so much as a talking through with the board."

-University President Salme Steinberg describing her decision to leave NEIU

European dreaming

by Elizabeth Rodriguez
Senior Staff Writer

Jeremy Rifkin has a dream—the European dream. In the keynote address for NEIU's European Union International Business Conference, Rifkin outlined how the European Union's emergence as an economic superpower will challenge the existence

of the American dream.

The main characteristics of Rifkin's description of the European Dream include inclusivity, cultural diversity, and ecologically sustainable development. The balance of work and play, the importance of social and human rights, and a high quality of life

SEE RIFKIN, PG. 3

Does Student Health Services measure up? A sometimes pointed argument, page 9



Free Speech Forum set for March 30th

by Joe Hertel
Opinions Editor

The Free Speech Task Force will hold a student forum on Thursday, March 30, at 1:30 p.m. on the second floor of the Student Union.

This forum will give students the opportunity to present their views regarding Northeastern's free speech policies. Their input will help the committee determine the revisions that will be proposed to the university administration.

The Free Speech Task Force has assembled

from Illinois colleges and universities information regarding their free speech policies. The committee believes that hearing directly from Northeastern students will have a stronger impact on the proposals to be made.

Students are encouraged to attend the open forum, and student organizations may send a spokesperson to address the Task Force.

When the specific room number for the forum is confirmed, it will be published in the *Independent*.

Note: Joe Hertel is also a member of the Free Speech Task Force.

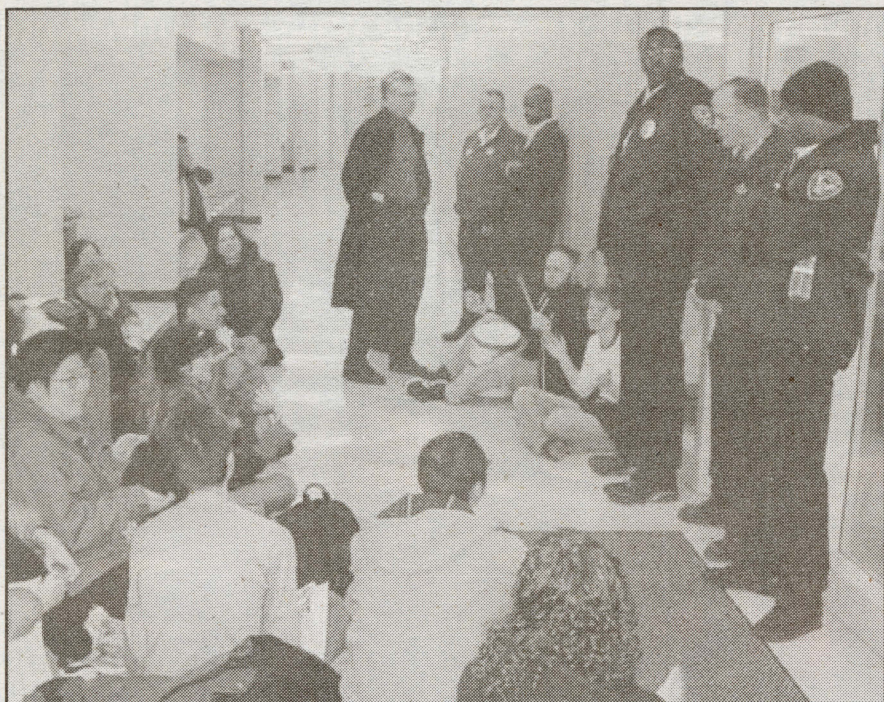


photo from Independent Archives

Scenes like this one above, a Fall 2004 protest at President Steinberg's office, will be the subject of debate during a Free Speech Forum on March 30th in the Student Union.

Correction

In the Feb. 21 issue of the *Independent*, it was incorrectly stated that University President Salme Steinberg has decided to retire from her position. The administration has stressed that she has chosen to resign from her position at the university.

The *Independent* regrets the error.

Attention students:
See page 11 for an important message from Provost Lawrence Frank regarding how to get into the classes you need. Direct all questions to Academic-Affairs@neiu.edu

Publishing Schedule

March 28

April 11

April 25

May 23

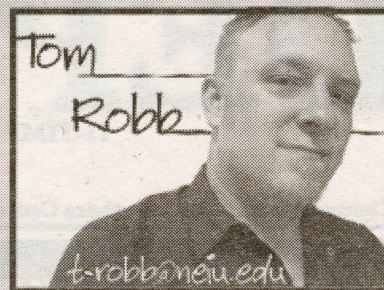
June 6

June 27 Freshmen
Welcome Issue

Deadline for advertising and Letters to the Editor is the Wednesday before publication.

neiu_independent@yahoo.com

A Closer Look...



Stop the presses

The U.S. Supreme Court has just refused to hear a case that would have decided the role of college journalists, thereby allowing the U.S. 7th Circuit Court ruling to stand. This ruling puts college papers at the same level as high school papers, where the principal can stay "stop the presses" if he or she doesn't like the content.

Would college administrators ever do that? Would they really call a publisher and tell them to "stop the presses" over content?

They already have elsewhere, but here at NEIU the administration will keep its treatment of the *Independent* unchanged, President Steinberg stated in a recent interview with the *Independent*. That is to say the *Independent* will remain independent—and no one except the *Independent* staff, comprised solely of students, will see or have the ability to edit, amend or change the paper before it is released to the whole university.

The case that went before the 7th Circuit, where school administrators did say to the publisher "stop the presses," is from Illinois. *Hosty v. Carter* is from Governor's State University, where the administration told the newspaper's publisher to "stop the presses." Students of the newspaper, the *Innovator*, sued the administrators, and the university sought \$1 million dollars in damages they seem to have lost.

Thirty years ago, a U.S. Supreme Court case said that college journalists had the same protections as professional journalists. This now is called into question as the U.S. 7th Circuit Court bought the argument that university students fall into the same category as high school students.

Administrators, the SGA and others often do not like what the *Independent* has to say, either because they disagree with how we interpret a story or because they really did not want the issue at hand to be publicly put under scrutiny. Now that this court precedent exists, administrations nationwide will be tempted to kill stories they don't agree with. Thankfully President Steinberg has assured us that this will not be the case here at NEIU.

Media organizations reacted to the ruling and the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) in Chicago sent out this e-mail: "The Headline Club [The Society of Professional Journalists' Chicago Chapter] urges the trustees, presidents, chancellors and other senior officials of public colleges and universities in Illinois to take a bold step to proclaim those freedoms, by designating campus media 'public forums,' a step that averts the kind of showdown that occurred at Governor State's *Innovator* and assures student editors the right to make editorial decisions free from administrative interference."

The *Independent's* Editor-in-Chief Patrick O'Brien made this request directly to top administrators in response to this court case. We hope that other colleges and universities will reply the way that President Steinberg did.

I am here at Northeastern to make journalism my career, as are some of my colleagues. We have covered many stories and hope to relay those experiences to the university community in a balanced, fair and thorough way. Reading the old archives of the *Independent*, and its predecessors *The Interim* and *The Print*, show that is a longstanding tradition.

We are glad the President and the university are committed to a free college press and will stand as an example to other universities that may be tempted to act otherwise.

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Dean of Students has new "right hand man"

Justiniano makes move from El Centro to assist Kelly

by D. Gordon Macnab
Production Editor

Former Assistant Director of El Centro, Eric Justiniano, will replace the departed Anthony Jenkins as the new Assistant Dean of Students.

"I'm looking forward to working with the students," Eric Justiniano said. He will continue to be committed to the students' needs.

"It is sad to see him go, but we are proud of his career move," said the Director of El Centro Daniel Lopez. Justiniano will continue to be an advocate for El Centro, explained Lopez. "This is a great transition for me," said Justiniano.

Along with being Dean of Students Michael Kelly's right hand man, Justiniano's "area of responsibility will include the Student Volunteer Corps, the University Ambassadors Program, substance abuse education, the Dean of Students newsletter, off-campus housing, the America Reads/Count Program, and student judicial affairs," according to a memo sent to the university community by Kelly.

"[Justiniano] will also serve as the representative from the Office of the Dean of Students on the University Wellness Council," the memo also states.

The search and screening for this position began in August of last year and was conducted by a seven-member team chaired by Michael Morrow. "Over 70 people fit the qualifications for the position," said search and screen committee member CoShawn Shakur.

Justiniano wants to make sure the student body is aware of the services offered by the Dean of Students office, like the University Ambassador Program, which teaches students

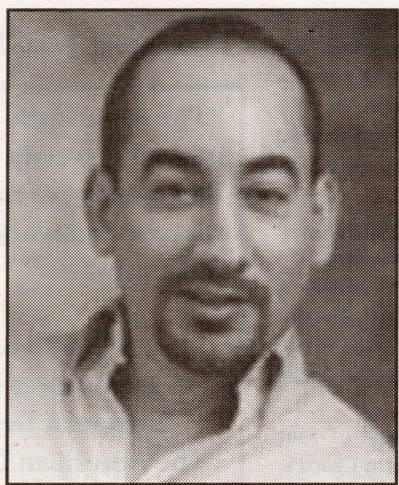


photo courtesy of www.neiu.edu

**New Assistant Dean of Students
Eric Justiniano.**

leadership skills; the America Reads/Counts that offers students positions, such as tutors; and the Student Volunteer Corps, which lets students gain experience in an agency that fits the students major or interests.

The Dean of Students office also deals with student judicial affairs or problematic students.

"After the six-month [searching] process, the committee presented their suggestion to Vice President of Students Affairs Melvin P. Terrell, and then Terrell makes the choice," Shakur explained.

Before working as the Assistant Director of El Centro, he worked as an academic advisor for General Education courses.

"No one is hired yet to replace the Assistant Director of El Centro, but the search will begin in a couple of months," Lopez said.

RIFKIN FROM PAGE 1

round out the main goals of the dream.

"Freedom is directly proportional to quality of life," said Rifkin. "It is this mentality", he explained, "that causes Europe to strive for a global consciousness."

"You Europeans are warriors of the world," Rifkin told the audience. It is because of its history of devastating violence, culminating in World Wars I and II, that Europe was able to create the first transnational government in the world, explained Rifkin.

Rifkin described the American dream, on the other hand, as "a very powerful and very simple dream."

"Americans live to work. Europeans work to live," said Rifkin. Constant work, as well as a desire for autonomy and mobility, is how Rifkin depicted the backbone of the American dream.

"We mortgaged our children's future" because of a drive to grow the economy and pursue the dream, Rifkin explained. "Is this a strong economy?" he asked. "It's built off debt."

"There are parts of the American dream that need to be grafted onto the European dream," stressed Rifkin, striding through the first few rows of the audience.

"We used to say the American dream is worth dying for. The European dream is worth living for," Rifkin mused, ending his speech. He then opened the floor for questions from the audience.

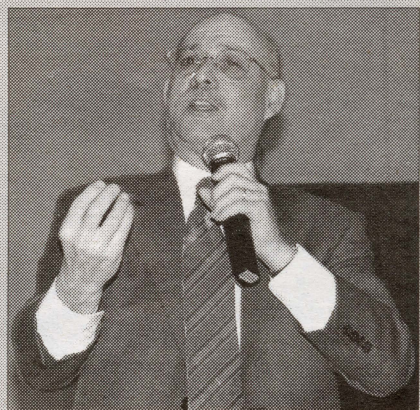


photo by Marek Zitek

Author Jeremy Rifkin, discussing his book *The European Dream*.

Rifkin is the author of *The European Dream*, which is NEIU's College of Business and Management's selection for their "One Book Per Semester" program. The program is designed to engage students across the college in a dialogue through using a specific book for a large number of the college's courses.

Jeremy Rifkin is the author of 17 books, many of which are used as teaching tools in colleges and corporations. He is also the founder and president of the Foundation on Economic Trends in Washington, D.C.

Rifkin's speech took place the evening of Monday, Feb. 27, in Alumni Hall. About 400 people, many of them business majors, attended the event.

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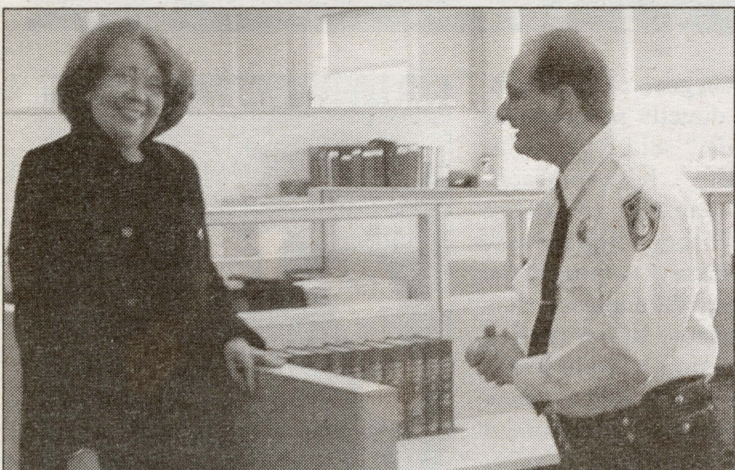
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STEINBERG FROM PAGE 1

photo by Dorian Barrios



President Steinberg in a recent visit to the new offices of Public Safety, one of the many building projects she has overseen.

Lee “will work closely with the Board-appointed search consultant and report to the entire Board of Trustees on the progress of the search. In addition, the Board is appointing a broad-based campus advisory committee to assist the Board.”

This “broad based campus advisory” will be composed of “eight elected faculty from the three colleges, the Library, and the Counseling Center, two students,

two Civil Service employees, and two administrators.” Once the search has been narrowed to several candidates, the student body will be able to “meet candidates” in a public forum.

Steinberg said of NEIU, “I love this place.”

Because of Dr. Steinberg’s accomplishments, “We are now able to move to the next level of building our great university,” said Masterson.

Which dream is better?

Presenters debate the merits of European relaxation versus American greed

by Dominika Konopczak
Staff Writer

Dr. Hamid Akbari, the chair of the Management and Marketing Department, opened the session, “The European Dream vs. The American Dream,” of the European Union International Business Conference.

The lecturers concentrated on the main features of the European dream in relation to Jeremy’s Rifkin’s “The European Dream: How Europe’s Vision of the Future is Quietly Eclipsing the American Dream.”

The panel consisted of four presentations, delivered by Chand S. Yadav, Violet Kurzatowski, Ilona Piwko and Hassan Marrakchi.

“The Americans are basically greedy,” stated Yadav, whereas “the Europeans are more relaxed and work 32 hours a week.”

This comparison, repeated in different words and configurations, dominated the session. It was said

that Europeans have longer parental leaves and less strict labor laws, thus allowing them to spend more time with their families.

According to Piwko, the European

strategy, however, does not seem to affect the welfare of the old continent.

According to the presenters, out of the 200 biggest world corporations, 140 belong to Europeans—compared to the 50 owned by Americans.

However, Marrakchi stated that the European Union (EU) can be called the United States of Europe; those two entities are too different to compare. The main difference seems to be the age of both agents.

Further, the cultural diversity of Europe differs significantly from the American one. In the EU, each country has its own culture and history, whereas in America, every state is very diverse. The presenters also pointed out the growing problem of immigrants and racism within the EU.

The last question of the session summed up the presentation: What can we—Europeans and Americans—“learn from each other?”

“The Americans are basically greedy. The Europeans are more relaxed and work 32 hours a week.”

**-Chand S. Yadav,
a presenter at “The European Dream vs. The American Dream”**

dream lacks proper marketing: “If we don’t promote the European Dream, it may eclipse the American dream in a very quiet manner.”

Later on she said that Europeans find the idea of advertising “the European dream” as “not their style.” This

Police Blotter

by Jennifer Marie Bergdahl
Staff Writer

On Feb. 23, an unknown offender stole office supplies from an office in the Fine Arts Building. The case was administratively closed.

On Feb. 21, an offender verbally assaulted and spit on a victim over a parking spot in parking lot F. They are handling the offender with student due process.

On Feb. 18, an unknown offender struck and damaged a victim’s automobile and then fled. The case is administratively closed.

On Feb. 14, an unknown offender stole an I-pod from the lost and found box at the Information desk. The case is administratively closed.

On Feb. 12, officers arrested someone for being drunk and urinating on the street. There’s a court date pending.



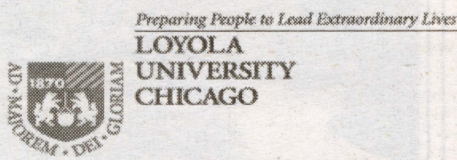
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WTO: not just for riots anymore

Michigan State professor discusses trade relations between world body and U.S.

by Felicia Maxa
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Feb. 28, Dr. Gregory Shaffer, a professor of law at Michigan State University, presented his views of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and relationships between the European Union and the United States.

While the lecture was aimed at political science majors and professors, it was informative to the average student as well.

Shaffer's lecture focused on the European Union and transatlantic interaction, and he spent most of the evening discussing the WTO, which operates as the "courtroom" of international trade, regulating laws pertaining to goods, services, intellectual property rights, etc.

As large as the political powers of both America and Europe are, they are held liable in this "world court" for biases set forth against other countries (regardless of size) though "compulsory jurisdiction," according to Schaffer. This means that even Europe and the U.S. can, and are, challenged by the WTO.

Shaffer also explained that the WTO,

like everything else, is affected by politics. These politics, however, are not on the same level as the politics of government and war.

The example talked about during the lecture was Europe's disagreement with the U.S. concerning the Iraq War, which has caused much social and political angst over the past four years.

However, as this aggression spreads among the countries of the EU and the U.S., the WTO warned that tension between the countries could leak into how the countries deal with each other through trade.

As both the U.S. and Europe are huge investors in each other through imports and exports, the politics between the countries over the war is not visible in how these countries interact within the WTO.

This lecture was very informative as to how the world works, painting a much different picture of global interactions than most students are accustomed to visualizing.

And while the U.S. and Europe may appear to be undermining each other politically, this "butting of heads" is very healthy for the world economically.

Time to Pay the Price



Who's policing the police?

Public safety has a funny role here on campus. They have to carry out the duties of a regular officer of the law as well as unlock our doors, cut off locks and make appearances at university events. All of that is usually done in stride by most officers. Then we have our last issue of the *Independent*.

The sub-headline of that story read "Did an NEIU officer go too far?" Nice way to wash your hands by phrasing that as a question. Rudeness shouldn't have to be tolerated in any situation—especially by state employees. I will say that some people ask to be treated like jerks, but for the most part, follow the golden rule.

Around here, some public safety officials might need a lot of help in this department.

A couple weeks ago while heading out from class, I noticed a public safety officer making his way swiftly towards his patrol vehicle. Once inside his vehicle he sped off in quite a rush, so I figured something serious must be going down.

A few minutes later I caught up to him. He was parked behind another officer giving a motorist a ticket. Hardly the event I had imagined. I sent out a photographer to capture the commotion, and afterwards he was confronted by the officer and told that he didn't want to see his face printed.

Now, while it might or might not be cool to have a police station on campus, I think their effectiveness and scope of duties should be more in question rather than whether an officer was rude. Maybe jumping back and forth from being campus security to being state police is too much for some of these officers.

Now we all know that the public safety officers patrol the area around the campus as well as the university grounds themselves. The university is large enough as it is with its many buildings and open areas that need to be monitored, and adding the area around the school to the officers' duties might add to the confusion.

I think that from past experiences we can say that their effectiveness as a visual deterrent to crime is hardly noticed. Last year we had people exposing themselves and we always hear about missing projectors and computer equipment that is never recovered. All of that costs the university thousands of dollars.

We can also look at the art department where we have student work that regularly goes missing. This issue could easily be resolved if the university would install proper display cases for students work or a proper surveillance system. One can not imagine the anguish of having a piece stolen after all the hard work and the financial investment that was put into a piece.

This happens every semester, and even dozens of cameras, which create more of a feeling of uneasiness than of security, fail to provide any assistance in keeping property put.

Maybe the entire access system at the university needs to be reworked to handle some of these issues. Maybe take the duties of unlocking doors and such from public safety and let another entity handle it.

Like most other departments in our university, public safety needs to take a step back and reevaluate itself to make sure that it is really working in the students' best interests.

Maha Shivaratri



The Indian celebration of the god Shiva took place in the B-Building on Feb. 23.

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Apartheid schools discussed at Black History Month Forum

CPS teacher speaks to Socialist Club about segregation and school closings

by **Violette Green**
Senior Staff Writer

Recently, the NEIU Socialist Club sponsored a forum for Black History Month that discussed the issue of apartheid in the schools. Fifty-two years ago, Brown vs. the Board of Education legally ended racial segregation in public schools.

That policy, according to Jesse Sharkey, has not lived up to its promise. "The schools in they U.S. today are as segregated, in many aspects, as schools were in the middle of the 1950s," said Sharkey.

The forum included Sharkey, a teacher of eight years at Senn High School.

He discussed the effects of segregation on education and the conditions in which some teachers worked.

H e

also discussed some of the Chicago Public Schools' (CPS) initiatives that he feels are contributing to the increasing segregation in the schools.

He spoke passionately about how many of the schools are being shut down and "reorganized" as many of the neighborhoods are gentrified.

Some of the schools that get shut down are "reorganized" and then opened up again as charter schools, which means that they are not subject to many of the same standards that the rest of the schools are. Some of the standards include teacher certification and union issues.

A PowerPoint display with a map was used to illustrate the Chicago public schools that have been shut down in primarily Latino and black neighborhoods.

After Sharkey spoke, the floor was opened up to general discussion, which ranged from talk about the school closings to forming an actual plan and standing up and actively participating in order to prevent more school closings.

Sharkey has been involved in the fight for schools since fall 2004, when there was talk of a military academy to be housed in the school as part of the ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) program at Senn High School.

The Socialist Club sponsored a forum on the segregation of public schoolchildren, a problem that may lead to neglect of school systems, especially urban ones. Inner-city schools have become more and more separated by race, turning back the clock on the landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision.

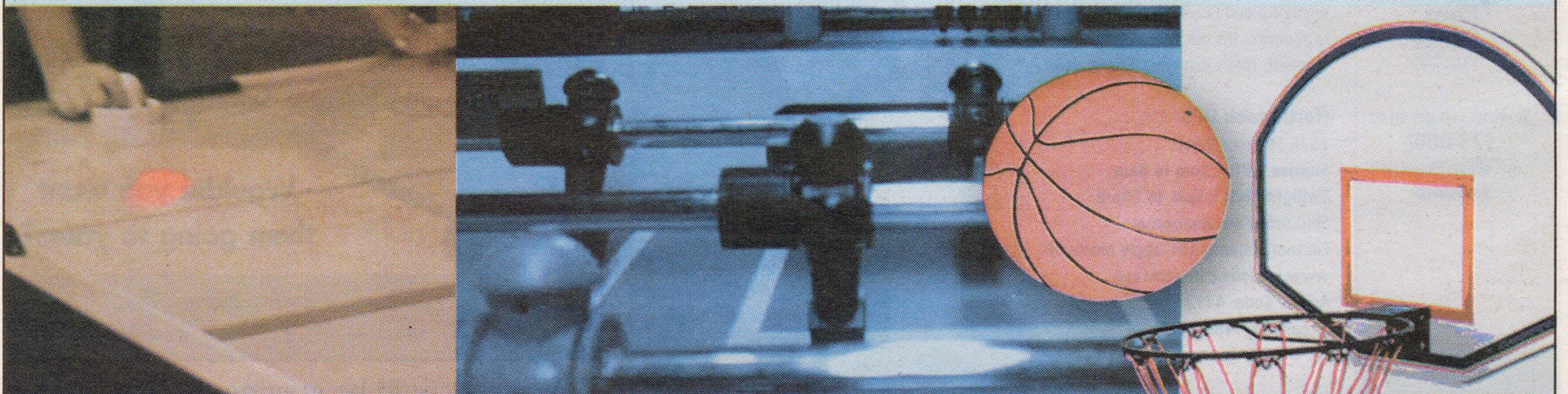
Washington Post photo by Michael Robinson-Chavez

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The World is flat, economically speaking

Dr. Stuart of the Economics department describes models of productivity and trade policies

by Amy Scoma
Staff Writer

As part of the European Union International Business Conference, NEIU's Dr. Edward Stuart, Professor of Economics, offered insight on "European Union Economics in The Flat World."

Stuart's speech included big ideas in economics, basics of international trade theory, and various EU models that aim to stimulate economy and ameliorate unemployment.

According to Stuart, economists try to answer the questions of productivity and distribution. The factors that constitute a

nation's productivity are human resources, capital (machinery and equipment,) technology, and social institutions.

Contrary to popular belief, Stuart asserted that "Nations trade and firms compete ... Politicians look at trading as a zero-sum game ... trade makes nations better off."

The EU generally uses three different models to try to "unravel those bad choices" made previously by despotic leadership, explained Stuart.

The Mediterranean model, used by France, Spain, Italy, and Greece, focuses on protecting existing jobs and industries. Stuart presented the example of Italy wanting to limit their Chinese shoe imports for middle and low-

income families in order to protect their shoe manufacturing industry.

The Nordic/Dutch model protects the income of workers, not necessarily jobs. This plan costs taxpayers a great deal.

The Anglo-Irish model is closest to the United States' model. By investing in primary and secondary education, Stuart explained, Ireland is "providing for higher quality human resources."

As the Chicago-land area has more than 900,000 people of Polish descent, Poland is confronting what the French call the "Polish Plumber Problem."

Because France has such a high unemployment rate, the nation was

concerned that Polish plumbers would take the place of their French plumbers. France, along with other European nations, asked for immigration restrictions to help stabilize their economy.

However, Stuart said, "Immigration is not about stealing jobs; it's about contributing to productivity." The countries in the EU who have the lowest unemployment rates (Sweden, United Kingdom, and Ireland) have declined their right to restrict immigration.

Attending student, Richard Stader-Shaw said of the talk, "Dr. Stuart puts [economics] in a common language. He used quick, easy bullet points to show how economic policies work within the political world."

Blood drive at El Centro

El Centro campus held a blood drive on Monday, Feb. 27, with representatives from LifeSource present. Below is Willie Rodriguez, a mobile unit assistant.



photo by Tom Robb

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BROWN LINE FROM PAGE 1

"As of February 20, the Kedzie and Rockwell stations on the Chicago Transit Authority Brown Line will be the first two to close as part of the CTA's restructuring program of the above mentioned 'L' line."

"Upon the re-opening of these stations, another 13 nonconsecutive stations—that is, stations that do not immediately follow one another—will close two at a time until the renovations are completed," reported Payne.

According to Payne, "the CTA will provide shuttle buses free of charge to Brown Line commuters from any closed stations to the next available one along the line."

He did caution that "the waiting time would be unfortunately lengthened by an unknown amount of time."

After this declaration, Suleyma Perez, legislative liaison from the Office of the President, replied, "[NEIU] has put forth a proposal to negotiate with the city and the CTA in order to create a line of direct-

service shuttle buses which would operate between the Kimball Brown Line stop and the university's campus area in order to better assist commuting students from both NEIU and North Park University."

As of late, CTA has repeatedly pointed to their lack of funding

NEIU has put forth a proposal to negotiate with the city and the CTA to create a line of direct-service shuttle buses that would operate between the Kimball Brown Line stop and the campus.

and current budget crisis, which has forced them to raise fares. This recent project has placed yet another burden on the local community, especially NEIU.

When answering heated questions from anxious commuters regarding the availability of the \$530 million

needed for this project, Payne calmly explained that "all of the monies come directly from a federally funded grant program for construction called the FFGA."

"No funds whatsoever would ever be asked for from the city's coffers or its taxpayers, and this project will not only ease passenger congestion by adding more cars to each Brown Line train, but the expanded platforms would greatly assist all passengers with disabilities."

Payne closed by saying, "Anyone looking for more information, such as shuttle bus route maps, project updates, customer alerts, etc., should check the project's web page, which is CTABrownLine.com."

The assembly took place in the Student Union building. In addition to Perez, Dean of Students Michael T. Kelly was present. No members of the Student Government Association attended the assembly.

Nick Gaudio contributed to this story.

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Editorial

Thank you Salme, for doing the right thing

The United States Supreme Court doesn't like free speech. Fortunately for you *Independent* readers, Salme Steinberg does.

The recent decision by the Supreme Court to allow Governors State University to escape punishment for shutting down their student paper, the *Innovator*, is an ominous sign that free speech does not extend to college students. This is a slippery slope that leads towards the censoring of anything deemed objectionable by anyone.

The decision in *Hosty vs. Carter*, a lawsuit brought by three student editors who were challenging their university's decision to silence them, shows students and university officials everywhere that the highest court in our land does not take the First Amendment seriously.

We at the *Independent* are proud to say that the President of our university does.

President Steinberg has responded to our request for support from her administration by drafting a statement that will uphold our rights as a public forum and affirm our right to publish without being censored, a right that we do not take lightly.

We are proud of the content we provide to this campus community, and we take full accountability for these pages and every last word and image in them. We are more than ready to defend the right to speak our minds and to let any other voice on campus speak theirs, too.

We are above all, your newspaper. We belong to the students; these pages are yours--for your perspectives, your concerns, and your problems. The *Independent* will continue to bring your stories to light. We belong to Northeastern because this newspaper is only as good as you make it, with your stories and your desire to be informed.

The Supreme Court seems to think that this student paper, and all student papers--high school and college--belong to the principals and presidents of educational institutions. They seem to forget what our nation was built upon.

We haven't taken for granted that because the First Amendment is in the Bill of Rights, it would always be there for us. Free speech is a living, breathing thing, and we have to defend her because there are judges, politicians and university officials who want to take this right from us.

They want to take the pen, the keyboard, your very voice, and make it silent, negating the contributions we want to make to our collective community. Those people in power who wish to silence us cannot be allowed to take our words from us.

This will not happen if each and every one of us lets our Supreme Court and university know that we have the right to speak, the right to publish, and the right to know what is happening in our community and in our world.

Thank you, Salme Steinberg, for making such a demand unnecessary at NEIU.

But what about the next president?

They should be prepared for a fight.

Rewriting textbooks

Making and breaking history

by Elizabeth Rodriguez
Senior Staff Writer

As the saying goes, those who do not remember the past are condemned to rewrite it ... or something like that. Accuracy isn't one of the finer points of history these days, especially in California where history could be rewritten this month.

California's board of education is currently in the revision phase of their statewide textbook approval process, which often unofficially dictates what textbooks will be chosen across the country.

Hindu nationalist revisionists have inundated the board with hundreds of changes to the history textbooks. While some of the proposed changes do correct glaring factual errors, most aim to mask aspects of East Indian history that many would rather forget, such as the caste system and discrimination against women.

Many historical scholars are incensed by the changes, bellowing about the biases and inaccuracies that these revisions would let loose upon the unsuspecting sixth-graders reading these history books.

And they do have a point. History should be based upon sound historical evidence and today's leading scholarship, rather than nationalistic pride. Unfortunately, this idea has not seeped into how Americans view their own history.

Christopher Columbus, the man who "discovered" the Americas, was not seeking spices from India, as the quaint but untrue entries in our own history books claim.

He was looking for gold, and when he initially couldn't find it, he

settled on bringing slaves back to Spain. Ferdinand and Isabella needed some sort of dividend from their investment in his travels.

And just how is it possible that Columbus discovered a continent that was already inhabited? Perhaps by "discovered," textbook writers mean "stole."

What about the waves of disease that explorers brought with them, crippling native populations into submission? These ugly truths are rarely mentioned because greed and smallpox are not things that Americans want to associate with their beginnings.

It appears that the Hindu revisionists in California have finally caught on to the American tradition of masquerading mythology as history.

It is only natural to want to portray one's history in the best possible light, but half-truths

and omissions dotting the pages of history texts are not acceptable for any group.

History is not just a set of facts that students must memorize and retain long enough to regurgitate for an exam. Our past is the foundation of our identity, a record of the priorities and values that have brought us to where we are today.

History is often unflattering, but denying such an intrinsic part of our identity will lead to a stagnation in the progress that America prides itself upon.

We cannot realize what our future holds without knowing where we have been. Confronting the ghosts of arrogance and misjudgment that haunt our history is one way we can ensure that the textbook writers in years to come will not have to soften the history that we are making today.

"It appears that the Hindu revisionists in California have finally caught on to the American tradition of masquerading mythology as history."



Old Man on Campus

Is God for the birds?

There is an old hymn, "His Eye is on the Sparrow." It's a beautiful song, especially when you hear an older version sung by Ethyl Waters. It lyrically describes how God, who, if He feeds the birds and waters the flowers, certainly will provide for us.

When I was 10-years-old, I suffered a traumatic experience one afternoon while playing with my little rubber soldiers on the front lawn. As my military forces approached the undergrowth of the bushes, my eyes caught sight of a tiny featherless fledgling, hanging upside down, caught in one of the tiny branches, its head dangling an inch above the ground. It was alive and covered with ants which were slowly devouring the newly

hatched sparrow. It was a terrifying sight to behold.

It had fallen from the nest of a nearby tree and now was being eaten alive, and I was scared and didn't know what to do. I watched for a minute, then, not being able to view the tiny creature in such agony any longer, turned away.

What could I have done? I wondered about that for years. Should I have reached in and saved the unfortunate newborn bird? Would it have mattered, only having it die anyway? God must have looked away for a second and missed having His eye on this particular sparrow.

As the years passed, knowing others who had earnestly prayed for healing, deliverance and assistance (regardless of their particular religious beliefs), and seemingly not having those prayers answered through divine intervention, caused me to ponder as to whether God actually existed.

There is a natural order of life that God (defined as a spiritual entity) has ordained and does not interfere with (except on rare occasions). When things go well, it's a good life, and when they go bad, life sucks. Hey, we all feel that way. But if you expect God to intervene directly on your behalf, you might be disappointed. God doesn't always answer our requests in the way we expect. Most times, He will send someone.

That is the truth I have discovered: He sends someone. They might not even know they are being sent, and you might not even realize why they are suddenly there, because this transpires in the spiritual zone, not the carnal. We have to be in tune with our spiritual selves or we miss what is really going on around us.

When that little bird fell, it was not alone. God's eye was on that sparrow but He did not reach down and save it; He sent me. Had I at that moment been in touch

with the spiritual, I would have reached in and rescued the bird. I was sent to do that, but out of fear I hesitated and was overcome by the hopelessness of the bird's situation.

Rescuing the fledgling would not have saved it from dying, but it just may have ended its agony, allowing it to die more peacefully, certainly making it much easier for both the bird and myself.

Death is part of the natural order of things. I have learned that if we tune in to the spiritual, we find that we are sent to comfort others in their afflictions, sufferings and even death. And others are sent to comfort us. The song states that "I know He watches me." He watches. God is aware of what we go through. Our job is to be aware in case someone is sent to us, or if we are to be the one sent, and be ready in time of need.

Don't get Sick after 4:00 p.m.

Health Services needs a shot in the arm

by Sarah Purlee
Assistant REV Editor

I have a love/hate relationship with Health Services at Northeastern. They offer over 40 different services and a nurse practitioner is on staff and usually available. Each student has a file and records of visits and medications administered are well kept. It is a great place for students to take care of minor health issues. It is a great resource for cold and headache medications—plus, they give you free juice when you take a pill!

One of the things Health Services excels in is their attention to women's health. Female students can receive gynecological services, free pregnancy tests, and low-cost birth control assistance. These services are confidential and females can meet with the nurse practitioner at any time to ask those questions not covered in high school sex-ed or how-to books about "the birds and the bees." Women's services are what Health Services does best.

Health Services also offers TB testing, strep throat cultures, disease control programs, and urine chemistry. These services are very important because, let's face it, healthcare is extremely expensive these days. Even after health insurance payments to healthcare

providers, the patient is left with a portion of the bill. I spent a significant amount of time working at a hospital and know the costs of simple procedures such as urinalysis, HIV testing, and women's health services.

Lab work that Health Services offers can cost patients up to around \$200. Raise your hand if you have \$200 sitting around that you would like to give to a hospital to determine if you have tuberculosis. Students with university provided health insurance receive these services for free.

Despite this, I have two beefs with Health Services. The first is the fact that their hours stink. They are only open until 4:00 p.m. and are closed on Saturdays. It is nice that they have emergency care, but evidently students need to have their emergency during normal business hours. With Northeastern accommodating students from a wide spectrum of schedules, this does not work. Northeastern needs to have this emergency care more readily available to students on campus any time of the day.

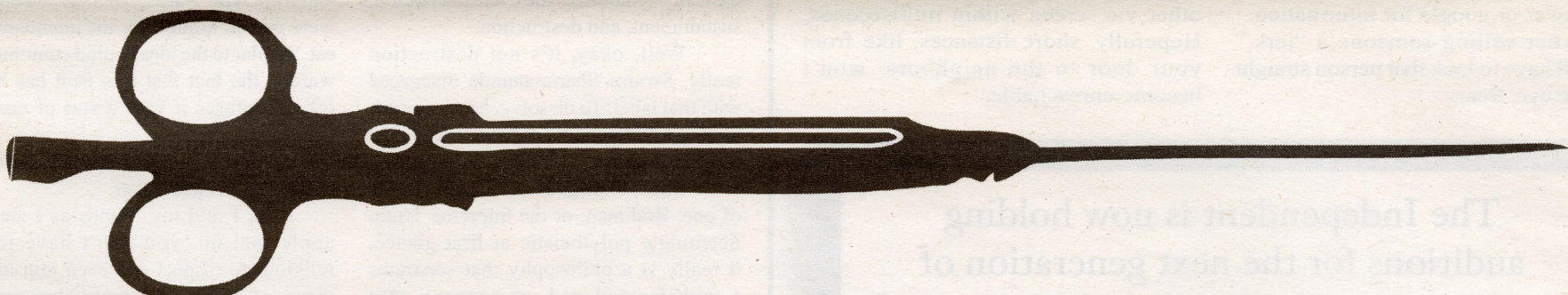
The second is the fact that I used the word "confidential" extremely loose. I usually visit Health Services for headache meds when I am on campus, so I am not necessarily concerned with confidentiality issues, but nevertheless,

they are important. When a student enters Health Services, he/she is asked to present a student ID card, and the corresponding file is pulled and reviewed—by a student employee.

Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) laws, the contents of the file and the confidentiality of the patient is protected, but I can't help feeling uncomfortable knowing that I may have a class with someone who knows my medical history. I don't think it is appropriate to employ students in such a sensitive department.

The other confidentiality issue is that when a student walks in the door, they are asked what they need ... in the waiting room ... in front of every other patient. Yes, the patient has the right to converse in private with the Health Services staff member, but it is still an uncomfortable situation. I also doubt every Health Services patient understands HIPPA laws and knows they have to right to speak with a nurse privately, without the audience of the waiting room and other employees.

Overall, Health Services is a beneficial resource for students, but they have some work to do.



graphic by Cecilia Carboni

Mail Bag

Dear Editor,

I'm writing in response to the treatment the Independent gave in its last issue to the cartoons printed in the Danish paper Jyllands-Posten and the wave of protest they touched off. Your editorial featured a cartoon of your own creation in which the figureheads of some of the world's most prominent religions were seated around a table. But Mohammed, the holy prophet of the Muslim faith, was missing. I'm writing today because I noticed one or two other things regrettably missing from your piece.

First, the gap left by an acknowledgement of the political context in which the cartoons were printed leaves a rather gaping hole in the editorial's text. What is Jyllands-Posten newspaper? What was their purported purpose for which they printed the slanderous caricatures? What did the images depict?

The answers to these questions have to be accounted for in order to even begin

to unravel the response the images received among Muslim communities. So, I'll take a stab at filling in a few of these blanks: The Jyllands-Posten is a Danish paper, which made its name as a pro-Nazi rag in the 1930s. Some time ago, they published entries in a contest calling for depictions of Islam to be used in a children's book. The newspaper claimed it simply printed all of the interesting entries they received, and it certainly wasn't illegal to include among them images that showed Islam to be, from its conception, a religion of terrorism.

While it is true that the publishing of such racist defamation is by no measure illegal, it is thoroughly insulting by design. The cartoons which incited dramatic protest from the U.S. to Indonesia were printed as a racial provocation, seeking to justify the anti-Arab and anti-Muslim rhetoric the West has been dependent upon over the last several decades—in order to wage wars, bombing campaigns, enact brutal sanctions, prop up

dictatorial regimes and detain and torture untold thousands of innocent and uncharged civilians.

This tactic, using racism to justify wars and other imperialist projects, is nothing new, of course. Dehumanizing the enemy is how the West went about enslaving tens of millions of Africans, waged two world wars, and colonized vast sections of the globe. The legacy of the racism employed in these profitable pursuits are still with us today.

So how does Denmark figure into all this? The party that has held power in Denmark through the last several electoral cycles is an extreme right wing party that uses anti-immigrant hysteria to garner support. Though Muslim immigrants compose only two percent of the Danish population, a government-sponsored ideological frenzy cries out that the immigrants in Denmark represent a dangerous cultural and political invasion.

Once these contextualizing facts are drawn into our frame of reference, the stories of mass protests on the part of Muslims across the world seem less the work of an uncivilized rabble, which can't bring itself to respect other nations and religions enough to participate in a scholarly discourse around the ecumenical table, but the boiling over of decades-worth of justified anger.

As members of the NEIU Socialist Club, we think Muslims have a right to be angry about the racist provocation that the Danish cartoons were designed to inflict and about the multi-faceted oppression the West is waging over Middle East and beyond. We further believe we have a responsibility to stand against racism and intolerance, against the U.S.'s interventions and occupations, from Iraq, to Afghanistan, to Palestine, and for the right of all people to protest oppression!

Sincerely,
The NEIU Socialist Club

Decline of social intercourse

Losing the ability to communicate with others

by Dominika Konopczak
Staff Writer

"See U in 5 min. Luv U."

So much for getting a sincere declaration of affection and being reminded of the date. The statement is convenient and short, and who cares about grammar? Text messages aren't about being correct, after all.

With all the devices rendering the geographical and time distance between people insignificant, we have become less and less fluent in the proper articulation of our thoughts when face to face with others. However, it is not only the intimacy that we lose.

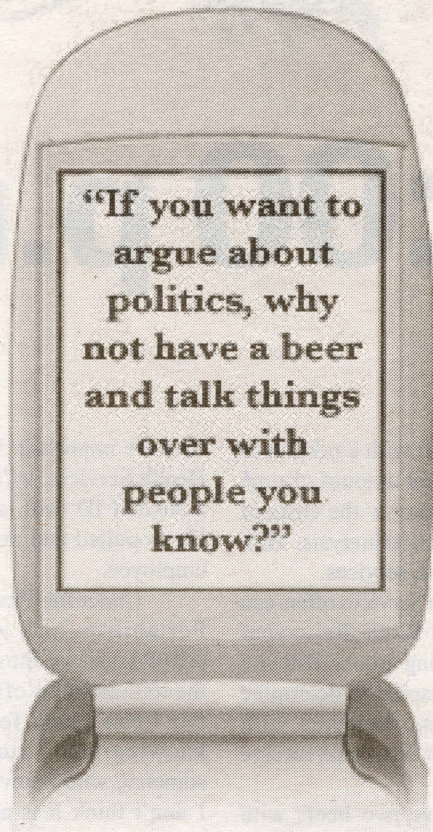
The anonymity of forums, where one can post anything, gives people countless possibilities to express their anger and frustration. "I read the comments section under articles in the on-line version of the newspaper and I don't get it," my friend said.

People usually don't care what the commented article is about. They just need a place to complain, to find somebody to discuss things with. On one hand, it allows them to get opinions from all around the world and give those negative feelings a vent in a rather non-aggressive manner.

On the other hand, however, it seems that some of them simply find it too hard to talk to anybody personally. If you want to argue about politics, why not have a beer and talk things over with people you know?

Of course, it will require more attention and commitment, so to speak. Time will have to be found, as people usually don't meet at midnight to talk. One will have to answer immediately, not having too much time to consider the answer or google for information.

After calling someone a "jerk," one will have to look that person straight into the eye. Scary.

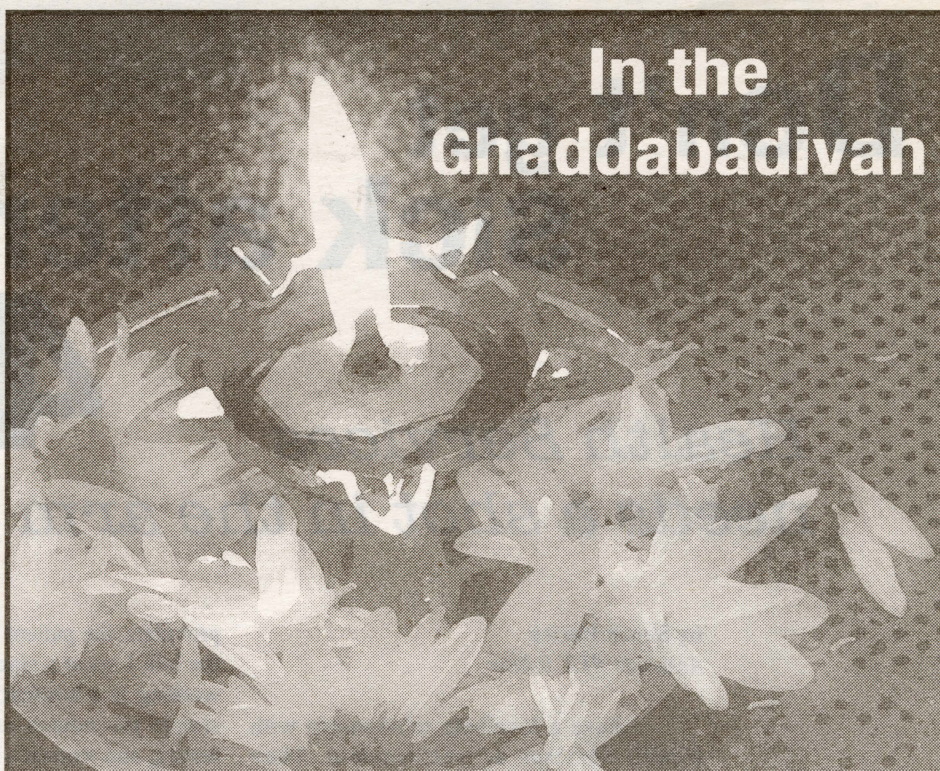


Well, maybe that's what it is. Once a person can hide behind an avatar and change their name, communication with others is much more simple. No eye contact, no tears, shouting will only be indicated by using capital letters, and no people around who can eavesdrop.

This seems quite comfortable, quiet and inoffensive. There is no looking straight into someone's face, no audible laughter, no touching, no poking into the ribs. Quite a low price to pay.

Soon, we will be great long distance runners who can reach each other via screen within milliseconds. Hopefully, short distances, like from your door to the neighbors' won't become unreachable.

In the Ghaddabadivah



by Cecilia Carboni
Graphics Editor

I walked into my office with orange powder smeared across my forehead, and I was looked at quite quizzically.

"You participated?" they asked me as I put the camera down.

The event had been during activity hour. I had walked into one of the new classrooms in the B-Building and the whiteboard had "happy Maha Shivaratri" written on it in an appropriately orange marker.

"Something religious?" my officemates asked. "Shouldn't you be bursting into flames or something?"

Maha Shivaratri is an Indian celebration that centers on Shiva, a god portrayed as blue and with a pair of arms to spare. As many religions have, there is a trinity and Shiva belongs to it. Vishnu and Brahma are the others, and the sequence basically symbolizes the cycle of creation, sustainment, and destruction.

Well, okay, it's not destruction really. Swami Sharanananda disagreed with that label. To dissolve, he explained, there is a distinction. And Shiva gets to be the dissolver.

These three gods are all really facets of one, Brahman, or the Supreme Truth. Seemingly polytheistic at first glance, it really is a philosophy that separates a multifaceted god, or concept, into several different symbolic manifestations. Functional names the swami called it, no different than calling one person a mother, a sister, a nurse, and a writer.

For me, as a simply curious person, it was interesting, for most of the people present thought it was an integral part of their culture. Being the diverse campus that we are, it was nice to see an event like this. If we have Ash Wednesday on

campus, then why not acknowledge all the other systems of beliefs? It allows for others to follow their beliefs and also provides a learning experience for students who are simply curious about the history, philosophy, or customs of another culture.

This specific event is in its fourth year. This was the first time a swami was present. Swami Sharanananda from the Chinmaya Mission (add a ".org" and you will find their web site), along with several others from NEIU's Indian community, led students through chants consisting of Mantras from the Veda.

Dr. Anita Ambardar announced to the crowd that chanting was, from a scientific point of view, a mental exercise in concentration. Mind you, I had no idea what I was saying, but there is something calming about a room full of people with soft words rolling off their tongues. Some of the rituals involved offering flowers and fruit. Afterwards, bananas and apples were passed around for the attendants to eat. Similar to the idea behind communion wafers, the fact that this fruit has been offered infuses it with a sort of cosmic energy that unifies.

And the samosas at the end of the event weren't bad either.

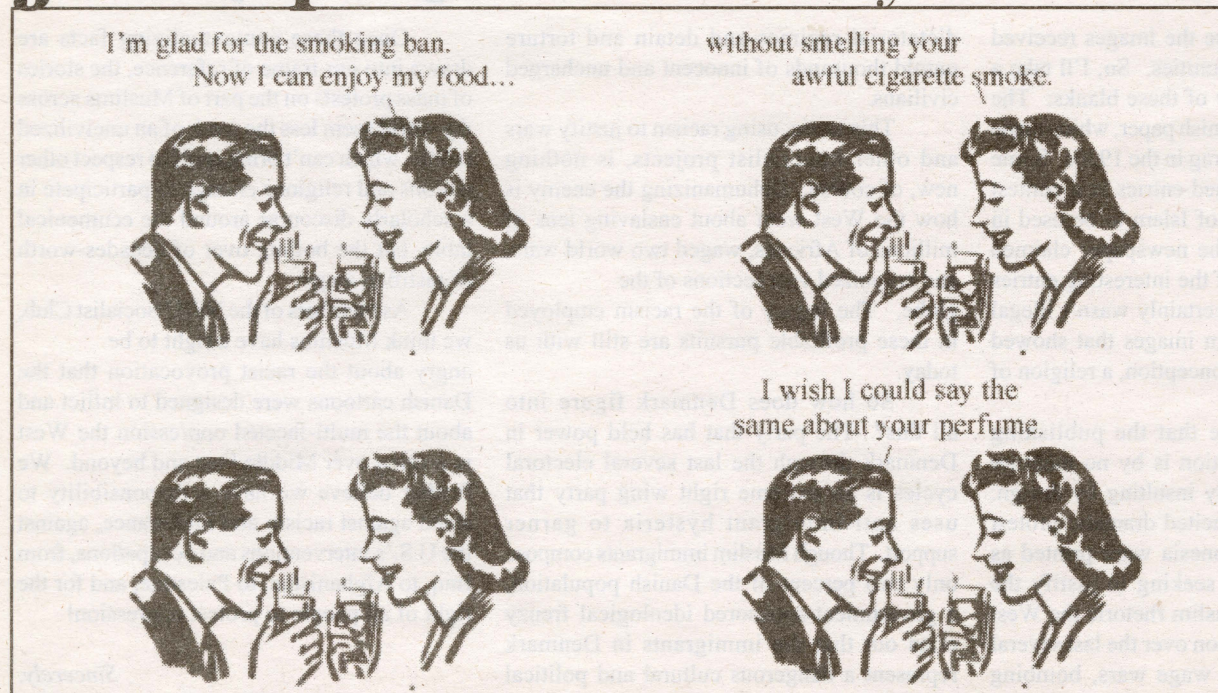
So, I told my friends as I ate my apple that no, you don't have to be religious to respect and even join in the views of others. In every belief system there is always a core that can be universal in its appeal, the ones that deal with simple existentialism or the cycles of time and nature. It's an experience to see how others adopt and assimilate concepts, and more so, how they choose to express them.

Also, the orange dust they marked me with matched my striped toe socks quite well.

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Joe Clipart

By Joe Hertel



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Letters to the Editor must be signed with an address and telephone number for verification. Submissions must be approximately 300 words in length or less. Letters are subject to editing for space and style at editor's discretion. The editor reserves the right to omit any work submitted. Published on first-come first-serve basis.

Send letters to: Independent, E-049, 5500 N. St. Louis, Chicago, IL 60625 or neiu_independent@yahoo.com

Message From The Provost

To: NEIU Students

From: Lawrence Frank
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Re: Getting admitted to the classes you need

NEIU has grown consistently over the last few years. From Fall 2000 to Fall 2005, enrollment increased from 10,941 to 12,227, an increase of 11.8%. This has increased the demand for classes and the University has added many more sections in order to accommodate the increased demand. In Fall 2000, 1,715 sections of classes were taught and by Fall 2005 the number had grown to 1,983 sections, an increase of 15.6%.

We know, however, that some students cannot get the courses they want at the time they prefer. At peak hours, almost all the classrooms in the University are filled. On the main campus, NEIU has 67 general classrooms, four technical classrooms, two distance education rooms and 35 labs and studios. The peak hours are 9:00 to 1:00 on Monday through Friday and 4:15 through 9:45 on Monday through Thursday. We cannot add more courses at those times because there are no more rooms available. However, we can and do add courses at other times in response to department requests and students' needs. For example, this semester we are offering 77 Saturday sections on the main campus and 20 at El Centro and CCICS. In order to add the right courses at the right times, we need your help in getting up-to-date information concerning your needs. You can help by doing the following.

USE THE COURSE DEMAND LIST

If you are closed out of a course when you try to register, TTRS offers you the option of putting your name on a course demand list. Many students do not use this option and that means we cannot effectively respond to your needs. If the University knows, for example, that thirty students are closed out of Course X at a time when a room is available, we may be able to add a section. We can only know that if you sign up on the course demand list. We need to know early so that we can find an additional instructor for that section. **IT WILL NOT HELP TO SHOW UP FOR THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS.** It is too late to add another section at that time. If you sign onto the course demand list early, we will do our best to create another section.

REGISTER AS EARLY AS YOU CAN

Your chances of getting the courses you want are best if you register early. In addition, if you use the course demand list early in the registration process, that maximizes the possibility that we can add another section of the course.

MEET WITH YOUR ADVISOR EARLY

Advisors want to assist you. Meet with yours as soon as possible to develop a plan for registration, including options in case you cannot get into your first choices. It is important to be as flexible as possible in planning your schedule.

DECLARE YOUR MAJOR EARLY

What difference does that make? Departments plan for student demand for upper level courses based on the number of majors they have. If thirty students think they are majoring in subject X, for example, but do not formally declare the major, the department will consistently underestimate how many students it has and, therefore, will not schedule enough courses.

These are suggestions to help in getting the courses you need. You may have other ideas that could help you and other students. If so, please e-mail them to me at: Academic-Affairs@neiu.edu.

Pollard's Picks

Alien³: the underrated alien film



When a film generates great commercial and critical success, it becomes very difficult for a sequel to preserve that same quality—or even improve on it. In 1986, James Cameron proved to be a director who was an exception to this rule when *Aliens*, the sequel to Ridley Scott's *Alien*, was released. The film took the franchise into a new direction, going for more of an action movie approach than the slow-burn horror of the first movie. However, with *Alien³*, the third movie in the franchise, many critics and fans were turned off.

I'll come out and say it—*Alien³* is my favorite movie in the series. The film and its director, a novice by the name of David Fincher (who would later go on to direct *SE7EN* and *Fight Club*), faced a lot of pressure from the studio. So much pressure, in fact, that Fincher left the project before editing. In 2003, however, 20th Century Fox released a special "assembly cut" of *Alien³*, a version which restored half an hour of footage to the film and brought it closer to Fincher's vision.

Still, despite the assembly cut, *Alien³* remains the black sheep of the popular franchise. Many people wanted a movie similar to Cameron's action-oriented *Aliens*, while others were disappointed with the deaths of Hicks and Newt early in the film, which were central characters in *Aliens*.

In many ways, *Alien³* advances the story of Ripley, the heroine of the series. Sigourney Weaver turns in one of the finest performances of her career in this movie, showing how Ripley has gone from a successful pilot in the first film, to a woman who has had everything good in her life viciously torn away from her by the third film. She's a very tragic character in *Alien³*, a tragedy compounded by her relationship with the monsters she fights. In *Alien*, the battle between Ripley and the alien was an impersonal one. In *Aliens*, Ripley lost her daughter because of the

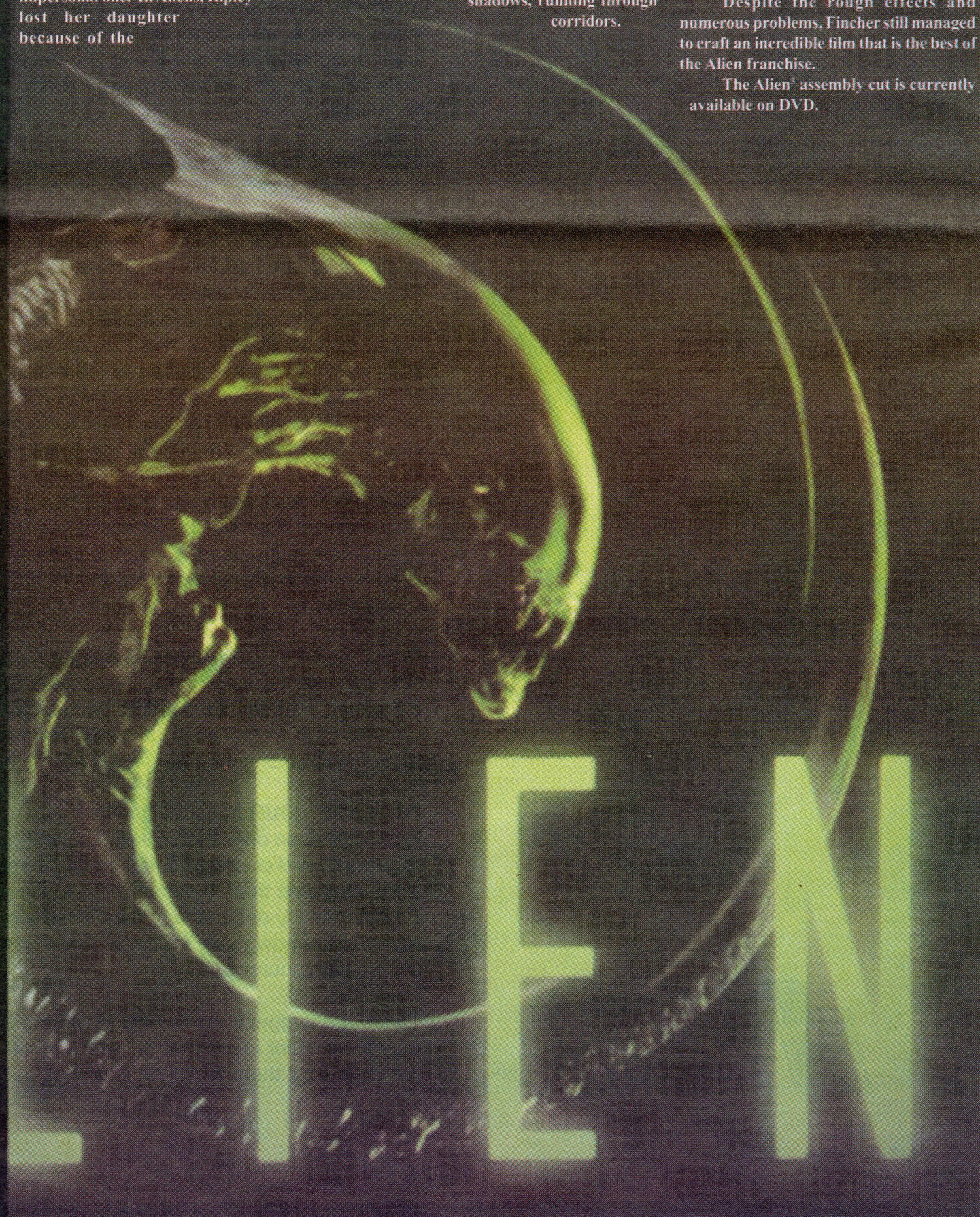
aliens, and the final conflict was between Ripley and the queen—the two mothers of the franchise. In *Alien³*, Ripley herself has been figuratively raped by the aliens, and her body serves as a host to the next queen.

More importantly, Fincher took a cue from Scott and brought back many of the elements that made the first film so terrifying. Gone is the army of aliens and the colonial marines sent to exterminate them. What we're left with is a group of people being stalked by a single alien from the shadows, running through corridors.

Fincher didn't simply create a carbon copy of the first film. The prison planet Ripley finds herself on in the film is filled with former inmates who discovered religion and all have shaved heads due to a lice problem. Putting them in the setting of a lead factory creates unsettling images reminiscent of the Holocaust, and Ripley herself is portrayed almost as a messiah. Fincher brought an almost gothic feel to the franchise. Thanks to Fincher, the alien once again became terrifying.

Despite the rough effects and numerous problems, Fincher still managed to craft an incredible film that is the best of the *Alien* franchise.

The *Alien³* assembly cut is currently available on DVD.



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There's a new game in town

by Michael Sy

Staff
Writer

Lions Gate Films and Twisted Pictures present *Saw II*, the sequel to last year's suspense/thriller about the Jigsaw killer. Like in *Saw*, he doesn't kill his victims himself. Instead, he sets up elaborate traps and situations to test his victims to see if they're worthy of life. There is a grisly price to pay for the victim to survive, but they could meet a gruesome end if they fail. He leaves the choice up to them, and he only chooses to prey on those who take life for granted. This falls along the lines of drug addicts, suicidal people and criminals—all for the study of the human survival instinct.

Saw II continues where Jigsaw, a.k.a. John Cramer (Tobin Bell), left off one year ago. He decides to play a sinister game with Detective Eric Mason (Donnie Wahlberg). Mason's son, Daniel (Erik Knudsen), is heading down a delinquent path.

Jigsaw kidnaps Daniel along with Amanda (Shawnee Smith), a drug addict who became Jigsaw's only surviving victim from the first movie and turned suicidal. Also kidnapped is Xavier (Franky G), a selfish and distrustful drug dealer, and five other strangers who all seem to be connected somehow. Mason can only watch from the video room as his son is sealed in a house filled with surveillance cameras and sinister devices.

Jigsaw only needs Daniel alive to get to Mason, his intended target study. Every room in the house has been vented with a toxic gas that causes the body to bleed through every orifice, killing them in two hours. All the doors in the house will open in three hours. Every trap in the house is baited with the antidote and one safe with an unknown combination has one of the antidotes they seek. With every new clue and new fact they learn about each other, things get more dangerous for all of them.

This movie also features the origin of Jigsaw, the birth of a new Jigsaw killer, and let's just say, the 'Bad Guy' gets it at the end. This movie has gore, violence and every form of human suffering, from emotional to mortal. It's perfect. *Saw II* is rated R and is now available on DVD.

photo courtesy of www.impawards.com

"Indigo Prophecy"

Figuring

out who I
killed...

and
why.

by Jessica Moen
Senior Staff Writer

Have you ever been sitting in a restaurant, suddenly have an uncontrollable urge to carve a snake into your arm, and then kill a man you didn't know? Well, poor Lucas Kane did one day. The reason why is still to be determined.

The Atari game "Indigo Prophecy" is a third-person adventure game that is filled with mystery and suspense. You play as Lucas Kane, who has ritualistically killed a man he doesn't know and doesn't know why. You also play as two police detectives, Carla and Tyler, who are on the case trying to catch Lucas. It is a unique game where you are trying to discover the truth and keep yourself out of jail, while at the same time you

are trying to gather the facts to put yourself into jail.

This game is unlike anything you might have played before—very different from the old "point and click" games you may have played 20 years ago. There is no fighting; instead, you use a Simon-based system to get through the action scenes. For example, when an action scene (and there are quite a few) is starting, a "get ready" message will appear on screen and you have to hit directional buttons to match the color sequences, just like in the old game Simon. Also, when you need to do an action, such as open a door or climb a ladder, instead of just hitting a button or pressing up, you have to swivel the directional sticks in certain directions just right, or you will fail the action.

The game is very open-ended. Your choices as either Lucas or the detectives determine what will

happen later on in the game. Also, you get a view into the characters' private life, and you get to interact with almost everything in the game, including radios, computers and food. Your "life" is based on mental health, which you must maintain by eating, drinking and doing healthy activities, such as listening to music. If you do anything to upset yourself, it will lower your health and you will eventually die of severe depression. If you make the wrong choice or fail certain actions, you will lose the game.

The game is very addicting and intense. It will leave you wondering if in the end you really made the right choice, but hey, that's what makes the replay value so high.

The game is available on PlayStation 2, Xbox and PC. It's rated M for mature. So if you are looking for a game that is a little different than anything you've ever played, and if you don't mind a lot of suspense, then you must check out "Indigo Prophecy."



image courtesy of www.atari.com

Step into the past with

Johnny Tremain



graphic compiled by
Cecilia Carboni

by Connie Herring
Staff Writer

Ester Forbes' "Johnny Tremain" is a historical play set in the American Revolution, which has been embraced by Western popular culture. The play recreates the Boston Tea Party, Paul Revere's ride, and the Battle at Lexington and Concord. Forbes has added an interesting twist to these very important points in history. The director, Katie McLean, does a fantastic job of turning a boring historical play into a dynamic stage play.

The play begins when John Hancock enters the apartment of Johnny Tremain to discuss the construction of a beautiful piece of silverware. Tremain is excited and wants to make the best piece of silverware known to man. While he is making the silverware, he has an unfortunate accident from a set of the men working under him. After the unfortunate accident, he is not able to get another job. He is kicked out of his house because he is of no use anymore. His hardships lead him into unforgettable historical moments. This bold young man changes history.

The actual script was not so entertaining, but Lifeline Theatre's depiction of Johnny Tremain is very convincing and the actors bring the audience into another time period. McLean creates an impressive show with a very talented cast. The cast includes Lifeline Ensemble members James E. Grote, Shole Milos, Geoff Button (Johnny Tremain), Chris Cantelmi (Paul Revere), Nick DuFloth (Sam Adams), Bryson Engelen, Erin Myers and Allison Cain.

Button does a great job displaying the confidence of Johnny Tremain. The ensemble members' volume and articulation is outstanding. Their body movement and gestures stay true to the characters.

The audience is drawn into another realm of life. The lights of the production are exuberant and radiant. The music has a revolutionary sound, which helps set the mood of the play. The two and a half hours went by in a flash.

For tickets, call (773) 761-4477 or go to www.lifelinetheatre.com. Tickets range from \$14 to \$26. Students (with valid ID) pay \$14. It is recommended for people 12 and up. For an interesting dose of history, go to see "Johnny Tremain" at Lifeline Theatre, located at 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. It is playing through April 9.

Melodrama on CD

"One Tree Hill" releases 2nd volume soundtrack



image courtesy of music.onetreehillweb.net

by Olga Bagramovich
Staff Writer

"One Tree Hill" is serious drama on Wednesday nights on The WB. It deals with different topics, such as drugs, sex, violence and friendship. They have recently released their second soundtrack of the show, which will benefit the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

In this season, Peyton Sawyer (Hillarie Burton) begins to recreate her relationship with her birth mother, Ellie (Sheryl Lee), who has announced she is suffering from a fatal form of breast cancer. They begin to learn more about each other as mother and daughter. On the show, they are working tighter to create a

CD that would benefit the National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF). Now this CD is available to fans around the world.

The CD is a collaboration of many known singers and bands that appeared on the show. The CD has bands such as Fall Out Boy, Jimmy Eat World, Haley James Scott (who plays a main character on show), Audioslave, Tyler Hilton (who appeared on the show), Jack's Mannequin, Strays

Don't Sleep, Michelle Featherstone, Hot Hot Heat, and many other talented musicians.

"The people who have spent their lives fighting this disease tell us that early detection is immensely important. We have an audience of young girls and women, and selfishly we'd like to keep them alive and healthy for years to come," announced "One Tree Hill" Creator and Executive Producer Mark Schwahn.

"The National Breast Cancer Foundation is enthusiastic about taking this opportunity to reach the younger audience 'One Tree Hill' provides," said Janelle Hail, founder and president of NBCF on the foundation's web site.

The Boxcar Children

A step back in time

by Deborah Goldbaum
Copy Editor

The play at DePaul's Merle Reskin Theater, "The Boxcar Children," is based on a series of children's novels by Gertrude Chandler Warner. The story takes place during the Depression. It is about four orphan children who run away when they hear that they will have to be separated. Eventually, they find an abandoned railroad boxcar and make a home out of it.

When one of the kids gets sick, they accept their grandfather's offer to adopt them. They did not know him prior to the death of their parents, but it ends with them reuniting and the grandfather suggesting they return to visit the boxcar the following summer.

The actors did a wonderful job conveying the story. The four children were Benny, Violet, Henry, and Jessie. All of the actors are students at The Theatre School of DePaul University. Benny was played by Dan Hail, who is a second year MFA/Acting student; Violet was played by Vergia Siovhon Norris, who is a third year BFA/Acting student; Austin Talley, a third year BFA/Acting student, plays Henry; and Teissia Treynet, a fourth year BFA/Acting student, plays Jessie.

Twins Violet and Henry, who always seem to be reading each other's thoughts, take care of their younger siblings. Benny is labeled "slow," but he shows his ingenuity with his many inventions that help the four get along. Jessie is the little mother, always making sure everyone is living in a clean environment and keeping clean themselves.

The play was beautifully done, even though sometimes the setting changes didn't catch up with the scene changes. The acting made the new environments believable. It was also interesting to flash back to the world of the 1930s. As I listened to the grocery lists and how much they could buy for five dollars, I was brought into their world.

Having read the books as a child, I was amazed at how closely the script kept to the original story line. Unfortunately, this play went through the story line that had been carried out in the series—in a play of only an hour and a half. However, overall it was well executed and easy to follow. I highly recommend this play to anyone of any age.

"The Boxcar Children" is playing at DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre through March 11. Merle Reskin Theater is located at 60 E. Balbo Ave. in Chicago.

image courtesy of www.state.nj.us

Eagle's Nest

Lifestyles of the Northeastern Community



Child Kare

It's story time



photos by Dorian Barrios

by Andrea Zelinski
Business Manager

It's story time.

Every day on our long way to school, we drive and walk past this short, little building. It seems too quiet and lonely, down on the south side of the campus—so far away from the university we've come to know.

Inside are dozens of little people who have learned to call this place their home. One hundred of them, in fact. They are joined by 15 full-time, nine part-time and one civil service personnel who watch over the children day-in and day-out for the Northeastern community.

"My birthday is July 25," exclaimed a little girl with long, blonde braids. Her name is Parker Barach, and she spends her days in the Busy Bee room. To show how old she is, she proudly flashes four fingers, tucking in her small thumb. Her fingers have some marker on them, but she does not seem to mind.

Parker is also excited that her sister is across the hall in the Teddy Bear room. This section houses children 15 months to 2 and a half years. The children in here are not potty trained, but they are learning.

"We're like a family here," said Debbie Tims, who watches these youngest children. She has been working at the center for over 16 years and always works with this age group. "These are my babies here."

Meanwhile, two and a half to three and a half year olds are talking about making kites in the Dolphin room. This is where most kids go after they have learned to use the potty.

Wilma Bechrril, a teacher's assistant, said the children are the best part about her job. "It's not really that hard," she said as

she cleaned one of their kiddie-tables. That's probably because every room is assigned several teachers and student aids. No teacher is left to fend for themselves with a dozen children to watch over.

Next is the Butterfly room, where three and four year olds play. They all crowded around a teacher cutting out paper masks for them to try on. One boy shouted that he wanted a batman mask, then a couple others chimed in. Some wanted Spiderman instead. The kids reminded her that Spiderman's

mask is red, just in case she forgot.

The final room is the Kangaroo room, which houses three, four, and five year olds. This room is a special initiative through the Community Partnership grant received through the Board of Education.

"My kids are way advanced to kids at school," said Steve Pack as he picked up his younger daughter. The older one just started kindergarten this year at a public school and is excelling beyond her peers. "It's not a dumping ground for kids ... It's a very good

learning experience."

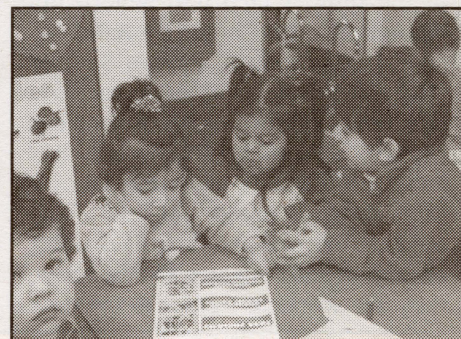
The center tries to offer kindergarten a class, but needs 10 parents to enroll their kids in order to establish a program. Elfriede Weber, director of the center, said they establish a kindergarten every other year.

Weber points out that the childcare center is 100 percent self-sufficient. It is not supported by student fees, like the health services fee or student activity fee. Instead, Weber and the center receive grants to keep them open. They are currently recipients of the Community Partnership program by the Board of Education, which supplies them with \$90,000 in materials and salaries; the Child Care Parent Access Means grant, which gives \$60,000, as long as the center cares for children of NEIU students; and grants through the Chicago Teachers' Center and Department of Education called Early Learning First, where they receive \$10,000 in materials.

While Weber and the center do not pay rent, they do pay utilities and faced cutbacks this year as the price of heat went up. Weber then had to find space in the budget to trim those costs.

Weber and her team of teachers care for 100 children every week, though they can only house 87 in the building at one time. The children do not solely belong to students. Faculty, staff, alumni and the neighboring community are all parents to the center's kids.

For a center so tucked away from the university, its use is in extremely high demand. The wait for the Teddy Bear room is three years. Other rooms have a two-year wait. Signing up on the waiting list while pregnant is the best route, according to Weber.



Plastic surgery

THEN AND NOW

Breast implants and nose jobs do not even begin to encompass the field of plastic surgery. To many, the term 'plastic' connotes fakeness. However, the Greek word *plastikos* means to mold or give form. Shows like "Dr. 90210" and "Nip/Tuck" make plastic surgery to be all about glamour and vanity, but the field has vast capabilities.

According to PlasticSurgery.org, "Physicians in ancient India were utilizing skin grafts for reconstructive work as early as 800 BC." The field progressed slowly and sporadically from that time until WWI. Because many soldiers became disfigured, plastic surgeons were in high demand, even though their practices were not considered a distinguished medical field.

The field of plastic surgery was not intended to be about vanity. John Orlando Roe, one of the leading plastic surgeons of the 1800s, proclaimed, "How much valuable talent (had) been ... buried from human eyes, lost to the world and society by reason of embarrassment ... caused by the conscious, or in some cases, unconscious influence of some physical infirmity or deformity or unsightly blemish."

By the 1950s, plastic surgery became a legitimized branch of medicine because it required board certification from the American Association of Plastic Surgeons and published its own journal. The 1960s marked an important decade for plastic surgery; the Vietnam War was a catalyst for implementing more procedures. As warfare became more brutal, plastic surgery became more inventive.

The field of plastic surgery endures an identity crisis because many people only view it as cosmetic surgery. In 1999, the American Association of Plastic Surgeons renamed themselves the American Association of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons to illuminate the scope of their line of work. Yes, they do perform breast augmentations, but they also perform cleft-palate operations, separate webbed hands and feet, and remove tumors.

The reconstructive surgeries are not in the limelight because fewer people need them, whereas many people consider cosmetic surgery. According to PlasticSurgery.org, the top five cosmetic procedures are liposuction, with 325,000 operations performed, followed by nose reshaping, breast augmentation, eyelid surgery, and facelifts. The top five reconstructive procedures are tumor removal, with 4,085,000 operations, performed, followed by laceration removal, scar revision, hand surgery, and breast reduction.

Plastic and reconstructive surgeries are expensive. The average cost of breast augmentation is \$3,373 and nose reshaping is approximately \$3,332. These cosmetic procedures are usually not covered by insurance and have to be paid out of pocket. While plastic surgeons may make their money from performing cosmetic surgery, they get their respect from performing reconstructive surgery.

For more information, visit PlasticSurgery.org.

by Amy Scoma
Staff Writer

Want to stay warm? Don't shave!

by Dominika Konopczak
Staff Writer

As the weather cannot decide whether it is already spring or still winter, we are faced with some tough morning choices, such as what to wear in order to not freeze.

The rule of the thumb is to stay dry, which means that at least the first layer of clothing should not be cotton. This material is a great insulator, but it acts like a sponge, and once it is soaked it loses all its positive features. So, you probably will have to retire those classic long johns.

Moving upwards, the head is crucial as the majority of body heat is lost through it. Wear something warm on it, in addition to covering the ears, chin, and nose. Rather than gloves, put

mittens on because the fingers will warm each other. A good general idea about clothing is to dress in layers and have something windproof on the outside.

Finally, a hint that may make some people happy: don't shave. You lose millions of cells that way. It also makes the skin more sensitive to frost.

If you were too optimistic and got back home frozen, refrain from drinking alcohol or coffee since those drinks provide only a temporary warm up. Chinese medicine advises using ginger to warm the body. Just put some freshly cut ginger into tea. It may taste a little awkward, but it will help. If you are more conservative, cocoa or milk with honey will work. Remember, spring is out there. It just needs some more time.

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Museum of Science and Industry

by Violette Green
Senior Staff Writer

A spacecraft? Walking through the heart of a human 28-stories-tall? No, you haven't wandered through the looking glass. This is the world of the Museum of Science and Industry. It has been entertaining visitors in Chicago since its opening in 1933. It was the first museum in North America to develop hands-on interactive exhibits. There are more than 800 exhibits and 2,000 interactive areas located in the building.

Chicago businessman Julius Rosenwald, along with other business leaders from the Midwest, converted the Palace of Fine Arts, the one remaining structure left from the 1893 World's Fair, into the Museum of Science and Industry.

The museum's exhibits cover a myriad of scientific and industrial ideas. There's a working coalmine shaft elevator, an acoustically perfect room, the world's first permanent exhibit on HIV/AIDS, and the Apollo 8 spacecraft, which was the first manned spacecraft to the moon. Some of the new exhibits include images of a working heart, black architects and their work and the German U-505 submarine, which includes interactive areas.

The museum also has an Omnimax Theatre that shows a variety of films. Currently playing in Omnimax is *Ocean Oasis*, the documentary on an ocean surrounded by a desert. Also playing is new footage from the moon landing and *STOMP*, the film about percussive performers.

Tours and demonstrations include the coalmine tour, rules of magnetic attraction, seeing the colors of the electromagnetic spectrum, and seeing and feeling sound. The Museum of Science and Industry is located at 57th Street and Lake Shore Drive. Admission prices range from \$3.50 to \$7.

The price goes up with a visit to Omnimax. Active military personnel, Chicago police and firefighters, and Illinois teachers can be admitted free with valid I.D. For more, check out www.msichicago.org.

Hands-on exploration

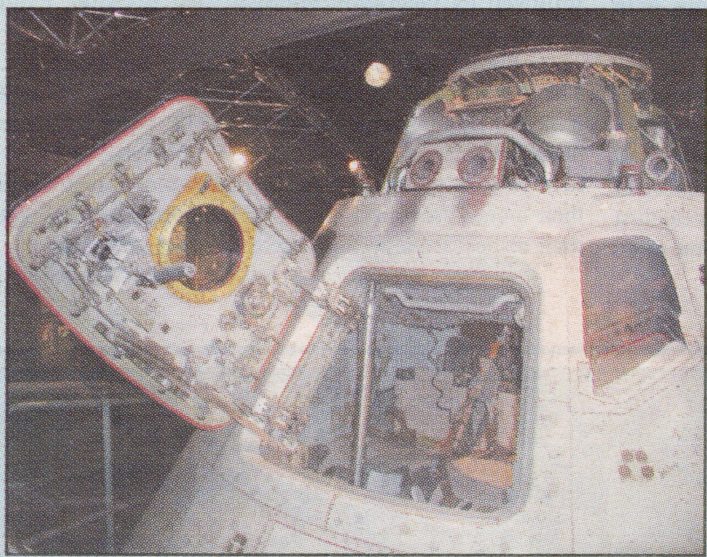


photo courtesy of www.spaceflightline.org



photo courtesy of Scott Brownell of the Mus. Sci. & Industry

from space to sea



photo courtesy of www.physik.rwth-aachen.de

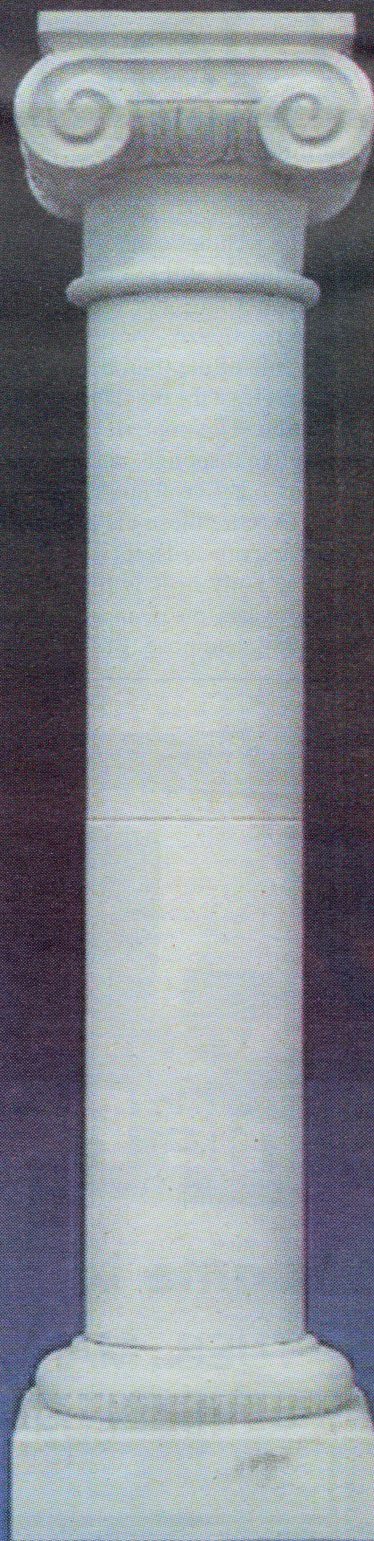


photo courtesy of www.physik.rwth-aachen.de

Wild in the city

Coyotes passing through



photo courtesy of www.nbca.org/images/Coyote/Coyote%20005.jpg

by Mike Arch
Staff Writer

A coyote pup rescued by the Trailside Nature Museum sits in a cage. The coyote cannot be released back into the wild because of human interaction. A milk crate, a plastic dog igloo, and a tennis ball are in with the pacing coyote, which seems excited to see people walk past the cage. The coyote rushes to the cage door.

This is an oddity for most coyotes. Wild coyotes are afraid of humans. "Coyotes are not as large of a problem as most people think," stated Jim Chelsvig, a naturalist at the Trailside Museum in River Forest. He explained that Coyotes are natural hunters, feeding mostly on rabbits, birds, squirrels, rats and other small rodents. On occasion, they will get a sick deer fawn or a family pet. However, coyotes, though mainly hunters, will scavenge as well.

Research is being done in Cook County to start tracking coyotes using radio collars. They can travel up to an average of 25 miles per day. They have made their way throughout

the Chicago area. Coyotes have even been seen in Lincoln Park. The chance of seeing a coyote is slim, as they are very stealthy.

Chelsvig gave some tips about how to remain safe around coyotes. First of all, coyotes are afraid of humans. Just don't get in between a mother and her den, and they will probably not attack. Also, keep your dogs on a leash. Most people may think that large dogs are safe from coyotes. However, they have been known to play with dogs as large as a Labrador retriever, and if they fight, the wild coyote has an advantage due to the domesticated dog's lack of survival instincts.

Chelsvig also provided some information on what needs to be done if a coyote is seen on campus. He said he was familiar with the NEIU campus and the area, and it wouldn't surprise him if a coyote would appear on campus. There is a nature preserve nearby that coyotes call home. NEIU's main campus is within traveling distance for a coyote from this preserve. If a coyote is sighted, nothing needs to be done other than avoid it. The coyote is probably just passing through.

Myths about organ donations

by Holly Dziewulski
Staff Writer

According to the National Kidney Foundation, there are over 89,000 United States citizens on a waiting list to receive an organ transplant. Every month, that number generally goes up by 4,000.

The majority of the people on the waiting list for an organ transplant are waiting for a new kidney. As of December 5, 2005, the following information had been provided by Transplant Living, which is part of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS): 64,379 people need a kidney transplant, 17,488 need a liver, 3,244 need a lung, 3,016 need a heart, 2,515 need both a pancreas and a kidney, and 1,673 need an intestine.

It is not an easy task to get organs in order to lower these numbers. Many people are reluctant to donate their bodies after death. There are several myths about organ transplants that persuade people to not donate their organs.

The main myth is that once an organ is removed from someone who has died, they will look mutilated. This is not true. Donated organs are just removed by surgery and the body is not mutilated afterwards.

Another myth that persuades one to not give their organs is the belief that if there is a car accident and one is near death, the hospital doctors will not try to save the life. This is very untrue. The organ transplant procedure only takes place if everything has been done to attempt to save the life. If nothing can be done to save the person, then the organ procurement organization is notified, the family of the donor is notified and asked for consent to donate organs, and if consent is given, the organ transplant process begins.

Many people also believe that there are limited amounts of organs or tissues that can be donated. The organs that can be donated include livers, pancreas, kidneys, lungs, and intestines. Tissue that is needed includes eyes, skin, bone, heart, valves, and tendons. You may specify the organs that you wish to donate.

There is no age limit on who can donate organs. However, people under the age of 18, who wish to donate their organs, must first get consent from their parents. In some cases, infants and senior citizens have been organ donors.

Another little known fact about organ donations is that it does not go against religion. Many people may be hesitant to donate because they feel that it would go against their religious beliefs. According to the U.S. Government's web site for organ and tissue donation and transplantation, this is untrue. Many religions in the United States, although not all, do approve of organ donations and consider it an act of charity.

There are many ways to express one's wish to be an organ donor. The main way is to sign the back of your driver's license and tell your family your wish to donate. Other ways to express your wish to be an organ donor include specifying this in a will and signing an organ donor card. To print out an organ donor card, go to [ftp://ftp.hrsa.gov/osp/newdonorcard.pdf](http://ftp.hrsa.gov/osp/newdonorcard.pdf).

Joining the organ donor registry is another way that one may express wishes to be an organ donor. To join the Illinois organ donor registry, go to <https://www.ilsos.gov/organdonorregister/> and complete the form.

Sources:
National Kidney Foundation
Transplant Living.org
www.stopgettingsick.com

Art on the street

Graffiti making its

mark

by Linda Wojtas
Staff Writer

Writings on the wall have been around for thousands of years. Throughout the world, they appeared on ancient walls of sacred places. The most well known are the hieroglyphics in Egypt. Despite this, writings on the wall in the form of graffiti cause much controversy.

The graffiti movement began in the 1960s in Philadelphia. It quickly

spread to New York City, where it became a sensation. Today, it can be seen all over the world and throughout different countries.

Graffiti often fails to be recognized as an art form, but rather as vandalism. It is mostly criticized because of its location—since it is usually seen in public places. Graffiti signs are usually spray painted on the walls of buildings, trains, tunnels, or wherever the artist finds a desirable spot. Because of this, they are proclaimed illegal and there are major attempts by local governments to get rid of them.

Graffiti has a way of making a city look disorganized and like it lives on its own, rather than having a perfectly maintained town with a strong sense of law and order. This creates a problem for some, while for others it is a way of life.

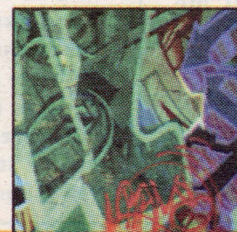
"Graffiti makes this dull world look colorful and interesting. It's a lot better than looking at an empty wall on a building," said one graffiti artist, who chose to remain anonymous. He has been painting in the city of Chicago for over five years.

Graffiti is a form of expression, and in some instances it has been recognized as an art form. The style, colors, shadows, vibrancy, and the technique used in the pieces all vary and differentiate from each other. It is an individual's

work and the artist often does his best to be set apart from others. In most cases, the paintings are just words, but they might include images. Just like with any other form of art, it is up to the artist's imagination.

Today, there is more attention given to graffiti. There are places set up in the cities called "legal walls" where artists can paint legally. There are graffiti exhibitions in major cities, as well as displays at local colleges, where artists' abilities and talents can be recognized. Businesses use graffiti as a form of advertising and people use them on the walls inside their homes as a form of decoration.

The struggle between graffiti's legality and its artistic form advances as graffiti lives on and persists in making an impact on the world.



National Student Exchange Program

Letters from students in the National Student Exchange Program

Maria Chaves Florida International University



Northeastern has been of the most rewarding experiences I have had in my life. It has been a great exposure to different cultures and a completely different life style.

Jolie Duhon Louisiana State University



My experience with the National Student Exchange program at NEIU has been wonderful. I'm so glad that I had a coordinator like Ms. Flora to get me settled here because it has made the transition so much smoother! Everyone should have an experience that is this hassle-free.

EDITOR'S NOTE: There was an error in the placement of the names with the photos in the February 21st issue. The *Independent* apologizes for the error.



photos courtesy of Joe Davis

by Andrea Zelinski
Business Manager

Ever thought about going to a school somewhere else? Maybe where it's warm, like Florida International University? Or maybe one on the east coast like Plymouth State University?

That's just what these five women were thinking when they transferred to Northeastern Illinois University. They are all participants in the National Student Exchange

(NSE) program, where students can take their studies to another university across the nation for a semester or a year.

"All my professors have been really passionate. I've been really impressed with that," said Amy Lawlor from Buffalo State College in New York.

"It's nice to have teachers that are intimate and will talk to you one-on-one," said Jolie Duhon from Louisiana State University.

The attendees met together

for a National Student Exchange luncheon on Feb. 7 to share their experiences. Many also spoke about the diversity of Northeastern and the experience of living in the city compared to dorms.

Flora Llacuna, the student enrichment programs coordinator, and Dean of Students Michael Kelly spoke about the importance of the program. Kelly added that the exchange students have helped "enrich our community here at Northeastern."



My experience participating in the NSE program has proved to be a challenging one, both academically and personally. Choosing to study in Chicago has given me the opportunity to experience a more culturally diverse learning environment. This undoubtedly has been a positive contribution to my study of sociology because it has allowed me to experience, first-hand, the diversity present in American society today.

Coming to Chicago on exchange has given me the opportunity to take a number of unique and challenging courses that would not have been available at my home campus. I found that the professors at Northeastern Illinois University were eager to engage their students in the class material and were always available to answer students' questions as well as open to any and all stu-

Amy Lawlor Buffalo State College



dent comments.

One unique opportunity I gained from my exchange at Northeastern was the need to live off-campus. The fact that Northeastern doesn't have on-campus housing allowed me to experience the city of Chicago more thoroughly than if I had lived on-campus. Using public transportation and living in one of the many unique areas of Chicago has allowed me to experience the city more on my own and separate from the university environment. This placed more responsibility on me to create a social environment for myself and become more self-sufficient.

Overall, my year on exchange from Buffalo State College to Northeastern Illinois University has been an exciting and unique experience and has no doubt been a positive contribution to both my college education and individual growth.

Kimberly Rudolph

Plymouth
State
University



The participation in the NSE program provides students with a variety of possible advancements in their education path. Students can take advantage of the travel opportunities, academic diversification, social and cultural differences, as well as search for graduate schools and career opportunities. This program forces growth and maturity upon students and enables them to learn more about the world outside of the classroom. I am thankful for both universities help and guidance to make this opportunity possible for me.

Valerie Levine

Plymouth
State
University



My experience here at NEIU has been a positive one. Coming from such a small university to a large one here in Chicago is a culture shock, but very exciting. The NSE experience is one that I think all students should look into. It is a wonderful experience to meet new people, live in a new place and learn more about yourself and others. Adjusting to a new school routine and new city (especially Chicago) is hard at first. Figuring out how to get around the city is a struggle, but it is something that you can overcome (with the help of a compass). I am enjoying my time here so far, and I might even stay here longer than I expected! Thank you!

Your special day in the Windy City

by Amanda Dalal
Staff Writer

With spring finally upon us, love is in the air. The marriage proposals of Christmas, New Years and Valentine's Day are starting to materialize into wedding plans, and with so much to do to get ready for the big day, finding the right location can be overwhelming. In a beautiful city like Chicago, there are endless spots to make this important day picture perfect.

The beautiful, serene backdrop of the Shedd Aquarium is home to more than 21,000 exotic fish and animals, which make great decorations and conversation pieces. The Shedd Aquarium can host relaxed cocktail parties and full sit-down dinner receptions for between 100 and 500 guests. The cost to rent the various areas at the Aquarium starts at \$4,000, excluding catering and entertainment.

If your love lies among the stars, the Adler Planetarium might be the perfect location for your reception. Along with the beautiful exhibits indoors, you'll also have a view of the spectacular night sky, Lake Michigan and the amazing Chicago skyline to dazzle your guests. Renting the Planetarium during the winter months is cheaper than the summer, but be prepared to pay the \$3,800 base fee, not including catering and some of the Planetarium's best attractions, like the Sky Theatre, which can add



photo courtesy of www.yachtparties.com/gallery/NavyPier.jpg

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on another \$750.

Of course, why hold the reception in one place when you can get married and celebrate on one of the great cruise ships of Navy Pier? Boats such as The Spirit of Chicago or Mystic Blue Cruises offer you a unique experience sailing Lake Michigan while celebrating your great day. Cruises like this are generally priced per guest and include food and

entertainment. Expect anywhere from \$65 per person for a brunch or luncheon, to \$135 per person for a dinner cruise.

As with any unique location, be prepared to work within the special schedules of the venue, and be aware of their rules. However, even with the extra considerations, these locations create a once in a lifetime setting for your special day.

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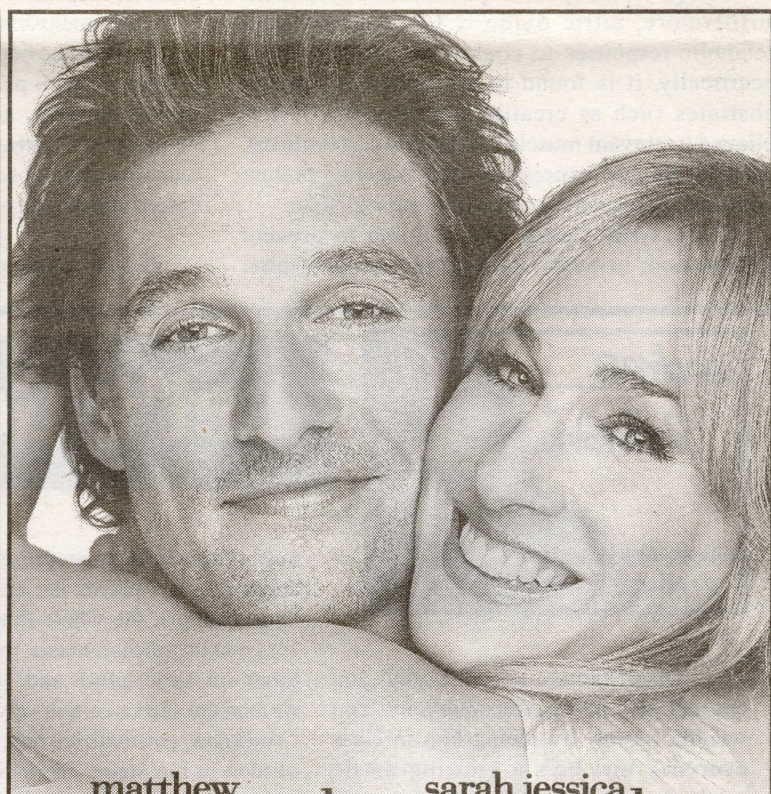
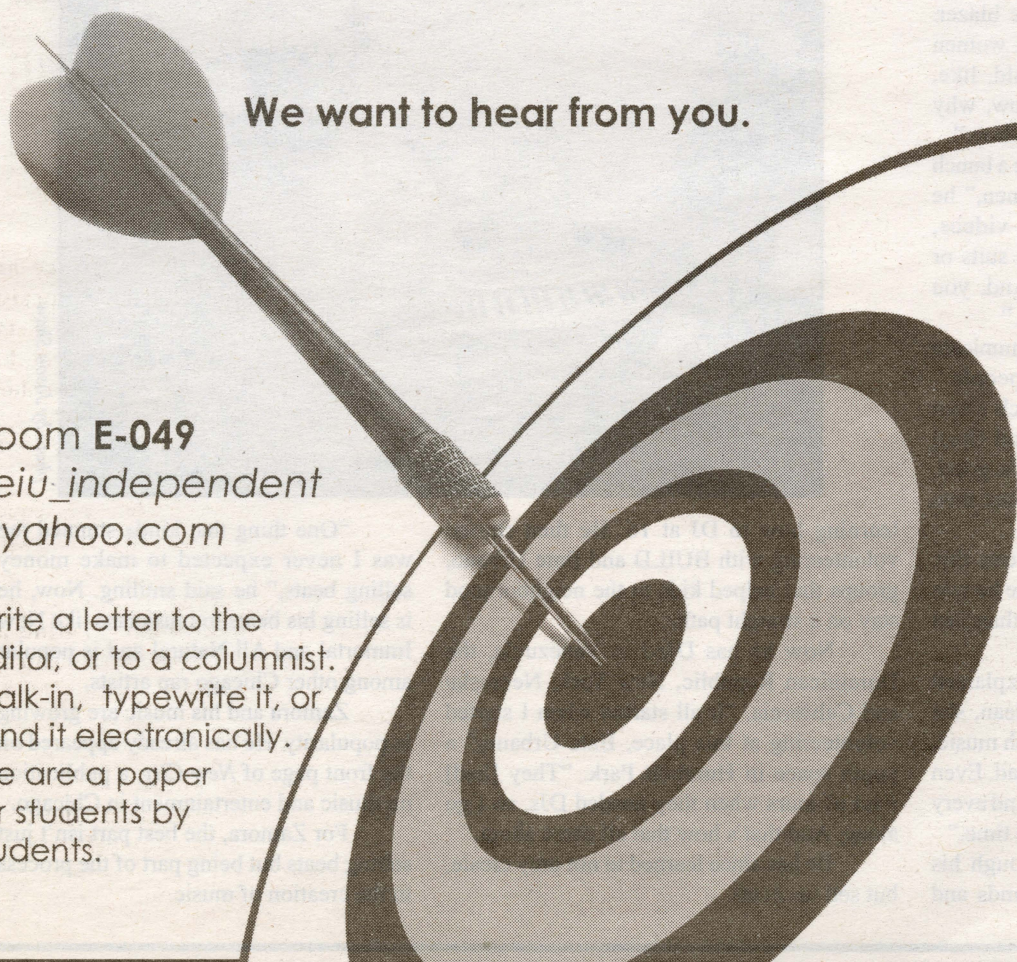
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Fitness Matters

Nutritional supplement Nitric Oxide

by Stoyan Angelov
Special Contributor

It seems that in almost every fitness facility today there is a nutritional supplement shop. You probably pass several on your way to work. The millions of dollars that fitness oriented consumers are pumping into the nutritional supplement industry have a steroid-like effect on it.

Blinded by flashy promises for rapid fat loss and monstrous muscle gain, consumers often forget to question the supplement's effectiveness and safety. Contributing to the problem is the fact that there are very few restrictions on supplements. Since they are not designed to cure diseases, nor are they essential for the public's survival, the government does very little to regulate them and inspect their quality. It is up to the consumer to make well-informed decisions.

At the moment, one of the newest sports supplements is nitric oxide. Have you heard of it? Don't worry, you soon will. The Nitric Oxide (NO) supplement was developed by MRI (Medical Research Institute) several years ago. The name of the original product was NO2, although a number of similar products by more than half a dozen companies now exist—NOX2, NITRIX, and NOX3 to name a few.

Nitric oxide is a colorless gas synthesized by the enzyme NOS (nitric oxide synthase) from the amino acid L-arginine. The body produces NO naturally in a variety of tissues for cellular communication and signaling.

The NO2 creators claim hefty benefits associated with nitric oxide supplementation. NO is a very reactive molecule, and because of this, it tends to have a short half life. This prevents it from being a useful supplement, but a slow release system has been designed in order to supply a long lasting effect. Its claimed effects on muscle physiology include increased contractile performance, among many others. It is believed that NO increases the speed of muscle fiber shortening, yielding more powerful contractions. Furthermore, nitric oxide is found to mediate metabolic responses to contractile activity; more specifically, it is found to aid uptake of energy substrates such as creatine and glucose. NO is believed to prevent muscle breakdown (catabolism), and regulate gene expression, thus boosting protein synthesis, giving increases in lean muscle mass.

Also, MRI claims NO is found to prevent inflammation. In reality, most of the benefits of nitric

oxide supplements come from their ability to relax smooth muscle. (Interestingly, Viagra's mechanism of action is very similar.) This causes dilation of the blood vessels, and subsequently more blood flows to the tissues. What does that mean to an athlete? Increased blood flow to the tissues allows for more oxygen and nutrients to be delivered, giving a faster and more complete recovery. This translates into gains in both strength and endurance.

These claims, if true, make NO2 the only legal supplement that has effect on both strength and endurance. Is it too good to be true? Perhaps. There are a number of concerns about the NO supplements. A short search yields a number of very skeptical opinions from exercise professionals. One such article is titled "Nitric Oxide- Big claims-Zero Science: NO 2 ways about it." The main concern is insufficient evidence to support the claim that nitric oxide actually induces gene transcription and subsequent protein synthesis. A number of credible studies, however, report vasodilatation and some anti-inflammatory activity.

There is another great concern worth mentioning. NO supplements are relatively new so long term effect data is not yet available. Open any Physics textbook and you will find out that the pressure in a pipe drops when the diameter of the pipe increases (assuming you hold everything else constant). The same holds true for dilating your blood vessels. As NO dilates blood vessels, blood pressure drops. This may cause problems in people who are borderline hypertensive, especially with long-term use.

Some of our professors at NEIU speculated that lowered blood pressure in the long run may cause baroreceptors to reset, allowing the abnormal blood pressure to become the norm. Baroreceptors are mechanoreceptors in the aorta and carotid arch sensitive to stretch. They are responsible for monitoring blood pressure. I could find no studies that explored the effects of NO induced hypotension on baroreceptors.

In conclusion, nitric oxide based supplements may be of some benefit to exercising adults seeking to improve their performance. However, long-term studies on safety are unavailable, so caution must be used. It is always sound practice to follow the recommended dose and seek your doctor's advice before starting any new supplement.

Stoyan Angelov is a certified personal trainer.

Car on fire...hurdling towards defenceless pedestrians.
An endangered bird terribly close to the flames.
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Steven Searle for U.S. President in 2008

Q & A: Secret Payments

Q: Are Alito and Roberts receiving illegal secret payments in exchange for agreeing to sit on the Supreme Court? A: Hear my speech on March 11th at the Lincoln Restaurant in Chicago, 4008 N. Lincoln Ave, 8pm to 10pm – small fee required.

Say "No" to Blago in the Primary

Vote against Governor Blagojevich in the March 21st primary – that's when he'll be most vulnerable. Denying re-election to incumbents is a powerful weapon, which can pave the way for the **Best Party Available** (go to www.bestpartyavailable.org).

Bomb them with Flowers

After the 9/11 attacks, while Bush was pondering his response, I already knew what we should do: Bomb them with flowers. I had no doubt that we should turn the other cheek. Imagine: Tons of flowers from B-52 bombers raining down on the Taliban in Afghanistan. And to think, the whole world was expecting us to go ballistic over this brazen attack on our soil.

After the full impact of our various 9/11 responses becomes known decades from now, we will conclude: "bombing them with flowers" wasn't such a bad idea.

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Let's Get Personal

The beats go on

Omar Zamora is a little shy; you can tell he's not used to publicity. You wouldn't know by seeing him in class everyday that he's a growing music producer at the age of 20, or that he could be producing music for artists like Kanye West soon.

Producers are different from DJs. For instance, a DJ is the person playing the music. Meanwhile, the producers create the beat you dance to. Essentially, they create the instrumentals that play with the vocals.

"So, I think that there would be a lot of things that my music, the music I produce, would touch on, that would have people thinking about certain things," he said as his eyes light up. "People who listen to music don't analyze it."

Chris Rock once said it was hard for him to defend hip-hop. He joked about lyrics with women in different area codes, and others like it. Despite it all, hip-hop is still a driving force in the music business that reaches millions of people across the world. "I think for me, especially in hip-hop, [there are issues] that I think are

not addressed or misrepresented," he said, dressed in a Yankees hat and beige blazer. "For example, the whole thing with women ... I would release music that would, like, touch on these issues and, you know, why women are seen a certain way in hip-hop." "You know, you think hip hop, it's like a bunch of men in rap songs degrading women," he continued. "Or when it comes to videos, you know just have them [in] swim suits or whatever, just objectifying them. And, you know, I would speak ... on that issue."

To Zamora, music is "to communicate and to transcend information to people." However, now music is "not so much about communicating this information and [has] become entertainment. I think that's good, but at the same time, it's kinda sad cuz then music kinda it loses its essence."

Zamora may have always been this philosophical. He's loved music since he was little and always knew it was more than just beats.

It all started with "my mom," explained Zamora. "Every time she would clean, she would play a lot of old school Spanish music, and that's what really sticks in my head. Even today, I find myself listening to it ... And every time I listen to it, it takes me back in time."

His love for music grew through his participation in grammar school bands and

learning how to DJ at 16. He then started volunteering with BUILD and Bate Urbano, groups that helped kids in the neighborhood stay on a straight path.

Now he has DJed in Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, New York, Nebraska and California. "It all started when I started volunteering at this place, Bate Urbano," a youth space in Humbolt Park. "They [had] a lot of tours when they needed DJs, so I go along. And that's how that all came about."

He has since learned to not only create, but sell his beats.

"One thing that kinda stunned me was I never expected to make money selling beats," he said smiling. Now, he is selling his beats to musicians like New Immortal and All Natural and is popular among other Chicago rap artists.

Zamora and his music are growing in popularity. He has already appeared on the front page of *New City*, a publication on music and entertainment in Chicago.

For Zamora, the best part isn't just selling beats but being part of the process in the creation of music.



photo by Jason Shaw



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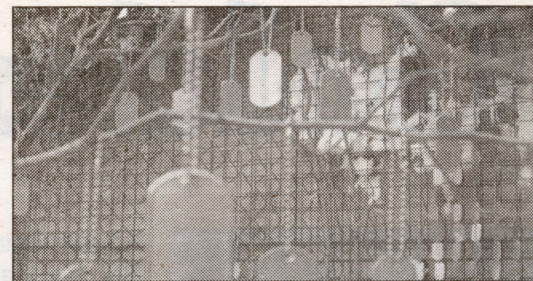
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Around Campus

Events, Deadlines, Club Meetings,
Concerts, Job Listings and Study Tours



Aslan and Narnia

The InterVarsity Christian Fellowship will hold a meeting on Tuesday, March 7, in FA-152 from 1:40 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.

Writing Lab Workshop

Need help planning, brainstorming, and/or outlining your papers? If so, then the Writing Lab is holding a "Getting Started" Workshop on Tuesday, March 7, from 1:40 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. in FA-108.

For more information, contact Borislava at (773) 442-5491 or B-Miltcheva@neiu.edu.

Eating Disorder Screening Day

The NEIU Counseling Office is sponsoring National Eating Disorders Screening Day on March 8 from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. in Village Square. For more information contact William Hutter at (773) 442-4658 or via email at w-hutter@neiu.edu.

Campus Open House

Thursday, March 9, from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the Student Union.

SGA Meeting

Thursday, March 9, at El Centro from 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Computer Science Career Panel

The Computer Science Department will host the Fifteenth Annual Alumni Career Panel on Friday, March 10, in the Golden Eagles at 1:00 p.m.

Stage Center Production

The Stage Center Theatre presents Lisa Loomer's *The Waiting Room* in Building F at 7:30 p.m. from March 8 - 11. Call the Stage Center Box Office at (773) 442-4274 for reservations or additional information.

Games Day

The Northeastern Programming Board presents air hockey, foosball, pop-a-shot, electronic darts, and NBA Jam video games on Tuesday, March 14, from 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. in Village Square.

Information Session

The Peace Corps will hold an information session on Tuesday, March 14, from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. in SU-003. Call the Placement Office to reserve a spot at (773) 442-4680. For more information about the Peace Corps, visit: www.peacecorps.gov.

Panel Discussion

A panel discussion sponsored by the FMLA and the NEIU Socialist Club will cover issues of abortion rights and Roe v. Wade on Wed. March 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Golden Eagles.

Summer Trip to Belize

Summer archaeological field school in Belize. ANTH-380 (6 credit hours), for the Summer 1A session. 12 students max. Registration deadline is Friday, March 17. Contact Rosemary Bradley at ext. 4798 for more information.

Summer Trip to China

An international study of Chinese culture and educational practices. ECED-312 or ECED-421C (3 credit hours) for Summer 1A. 20 students maximum. Application deadline is Friday, March 17. For more information contact, Rosemary Bradley at extension 4798.

Summer Trip to Greece

A course on regional geography, G&ES 302A, for Summer 1B (3 credit hours). 15 student maximum. Application deadline is Friday, March 17. Contact Rosemary Bradley at (773) 442-4798 or Dr. Dennis Grammenos at (773) 442-5641.

Summer Trip to Holland

Comparative classroom management observation in Holland. ELED-319 (3 credit hours) for the Summer 1A session. 15 students maximum. Application deadline is Friday, March 17. For more information, contact Rosemary Bradley at (773) 442-4798.

Candidates Needed

Spring Elections are around the corner for the SGA and the NPB. Packets are available at the Information Desk and in SU-206. Registration deadline is 12:00 p.m. on Friday, March 17.

Musical Performance

Northeastern Illinois University presents Tai Murray on violin, playing several classical pieces on Friday, March 17, at 8:00 p.m. in the Recital Hall. Tickets cost \$15 - \$25. Call the NEIU Box Office at (773) 442-4636 for more information.

Master's Exhibition of Martial Arts

Campus Recreation sponsors a high-energy day of demos by some of the Midwest's best martial arts masters on Saturday, March 18, in the P.E. Building. Doors open at 10:00 a.m. and the show begins at 11:00. Admission is \$5 or free to NEIU students with ID. For more information contact Alvin Cardona at (773) 596-0378 or via e-mail at A-Cardona@neiu.edu.

NEIU Baseball Schedule

The NEIU Baseball Team will host an intra-squad Double Header from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Mar. 11.

NEIU vs. Columbia College at University of Illinois at Chicago Field at 5:30 and 8:00 p.m. on Mar. 18.

The 2005-2006 Classical Guitar Series

Friday, March 31, in Fine Arts Recital Hall at 8:00 p.m. Brian Torosian performs solo works by Mertz, Coste, and Makaroff on period instrument replicas. General admission is \$5.00. All proceeds will be donated to the St. Francis Animal Shelter.

March Against Bill HR4437

An organized march against HR 4437, a bill to make immigration illegal, will be held on March 10 at 2:00 p.m. at the Federal Plaza. Meeting point is at 12:00 p.m. on Ashland and Lake.

Golden Opportunities

For Sale/Rent

Wanted

Got talent? Looking for a lead actress for a rap music video being shot on February 10, 2006. If interested, contact Jason @ jbrady811@aol.com. No comp. Plenty of exposure.

The #1 Blue Engine is looking for a professional salesperson who likes to work with children. Call us at (312) 335-9302.

Part-time job with fund-raising events, 1-2 mornings or evenings per week. Excellent people skills, organized, team player. Competitive salary. E-mail resume and letter to rtgannett@icefordemocracy.org.

Panera Bread Hourly Open House. Interviewing for All Hourly positions in the Elgin, South Elgin, Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Deerfield, Deerpark, Riverwoods & Glenview areas. Stop by one of the following locations to interview Wed. Feb. 15th 9-11am & 1-5pm (No Appt. Nec.)

in South Elgin @ Panera Bread, 322 Randall Rd Directions 847-841-1925 OR in Arlington Heights @ Panera Bread, 5 W. Rand Rd. Directions 847-255-8533. Fax/Email resume 214-222-6574 or PANERA@selfopportunity.com Questions 800-594-7036 Check us out at www.panerabread.com Rest Mgmt Exp Req'd.

NEIU Green Cycle Group seeks members to promote environmental responsibility. MNext meeting Monday 3/13 at 4:30 p.m. south end of cafeteria. www.neiu.edu/~gcgroup.

Part-time \$10.00 per hr flexible schedule. PR reps 17-25 preferred to cover events including, Cubs and White Sox. Javier Diaz 773-294-3182. JavieraDiaz@approvedpromotions.net.

Now Hiring wait staff - full-time and part-time Rengatei Japanese Restaurant. Must be willing to learn about Japanese food call 847-675-5177.

Clubs

Join the Future Teachers Club. Monday 7:15- 8:15 pm. SU 2nd fl. or Thursdays 1:40-2:40 pm CLS 3081. See <http://ftcneiu1.tripod.com> for exact dates or e-mail ftcneiu@yahoo.com.

Personals

Hey fellow staffers, at least we're not using Linotypography. Our current technology makes our job much, much easier, so don't seem so stressed to work on the paper.

-DGM

Dear Archibald, Please disregard that last message. I am walking just fine. Will be ready again in a couple of weeks. You bring the cream cheese, I'll bring the lox. (Your beard makes me hot.)

- Sincerely, Nate

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